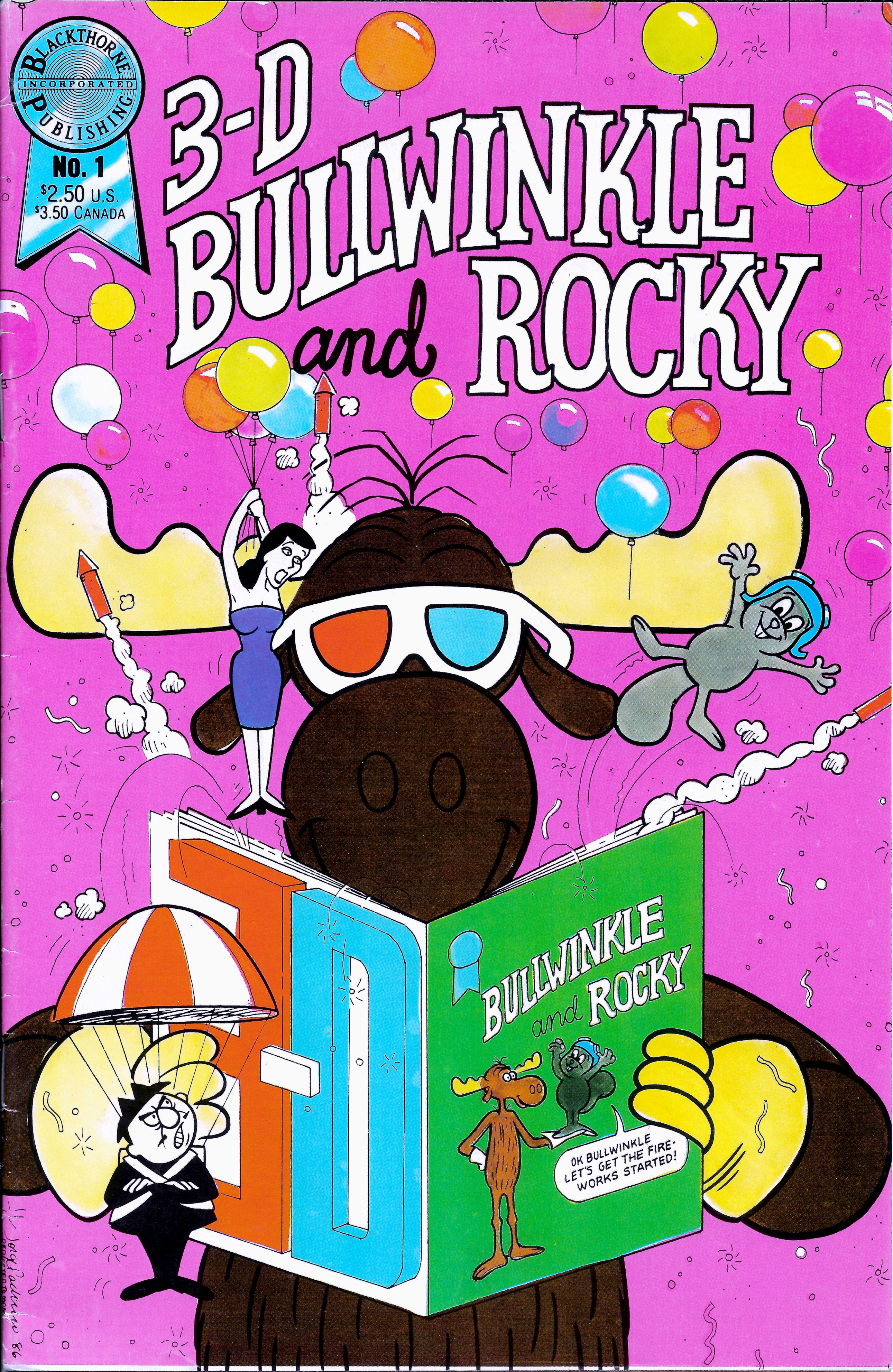


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3-D BULLWINKLE *and* ROCKY



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MEET JUNE FORAY

(as interviewed by SHEL DORF)

SHEL: June Foray! As everyone knows, you are the voice of Rocky and Natasha in the animated cartoons. Please tell us what led up to that job with JAY WARD STUDIOS?

JUNE: Since the age of 12, I had been a professional radio actress who aspired to a stage career, which probably would have been restricted to infrequent roles because of my diminutive 4'11" frame. Fortunately, my voice restrictions were non-existent. Capitol Records extended five year contracts to Stan Freberg, Daws Butler, and myself for recording their children's albums, which included Disney features and shorts, as well as animated shorts of Warner Brothers. Those studios did not have record companies at that time. Walt Disney decided that the young versatile lady on the albums should work for him. Thus was I initiated into animation. Nothing like starting at the top!

The first role was Lucifer, the cat, in "Cinderella"; then two mermaids and the old Indian squaw in "Peter Pan," Witch Hazel in Trick or Trick and scores of other shorts. Chuck Jones, bless him, provided my entrée into those hilarious Bugs Bunny cartoons at Warners as another Witch Hazel in Broomstick Bunny. Then, of course, Friz Freleng hired me as Granny, Bob McKimson directed me in others. In all, I recorded sixty-five or seventy Warner cartoons; hence, my career in animation was assured. Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera were still working at MGM; so there I went again.

Now that my name in animation was established, Jay Ward called my agent and set up a luncheon to pitch his concept to me about the adventures of a moose and squirrel, ingenious mad-cap heroes. Jay wanted me, and I wanted the series. We were both hooked.



Jay Ward, June, Bill Scott. Photo by Robt. Stone II

SHEL: What year did it begin? How many shows did you do?

JUNE: We recorded the pilot in 1958, just the three of us: Bill Scott, Paul Frees and myself, with Mr. Big, Jay Ward, in the control room directing. This precipitated over 700 segments including the Rocky and Bullwinkle adventures, Fractured Fairy Tales, Dudley Dornight, Aesop and Son, Mr. Peabody and Sherman, according to Peter Peich (Captain Peter Peachfuzz found his inspiration in Mr. Peich). In one's life, pilots are countless and are immediately dismissed. If one worries about their being sold, this way lies madness. But what intelligent network executive at that time could have turned down a premise like this? It took those at ABC to comprehend the future of this brilliant series to sign us for two years; thus, we started to record the actual series one year after the pilot, 1959 and continued until 1961, after which, NBC bought the show for three years. So from 1961 to 1964, we remained with the peacock.

SHEL: Was it enjoyable working with the people?

JUNE: The profession in which I find myself is so enjoyable, so exhilarating that it seems almost sinful to take the

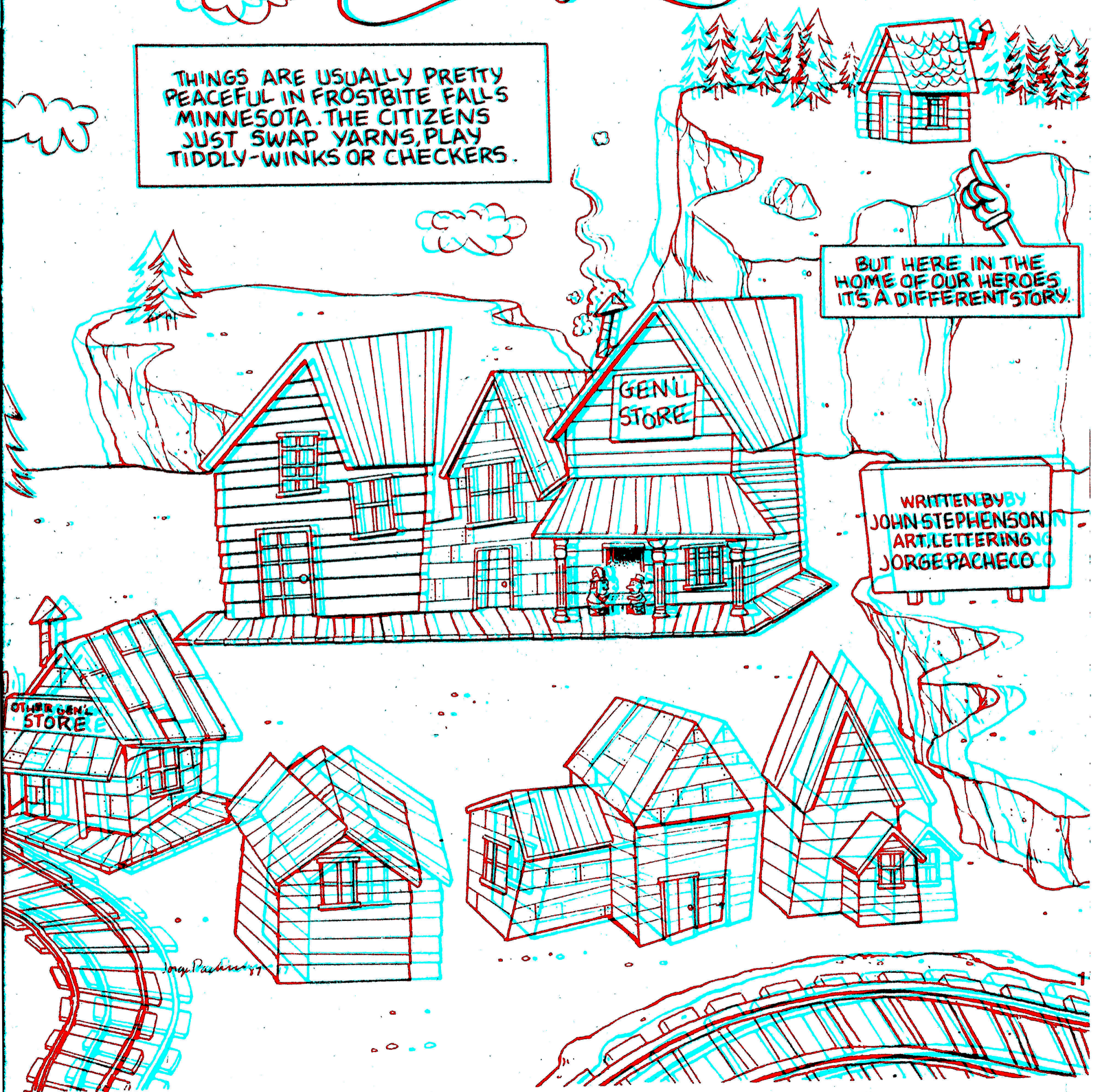
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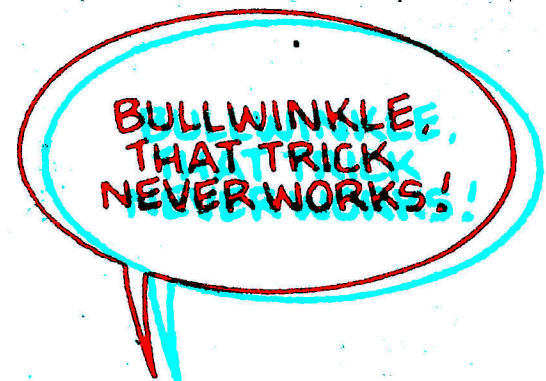
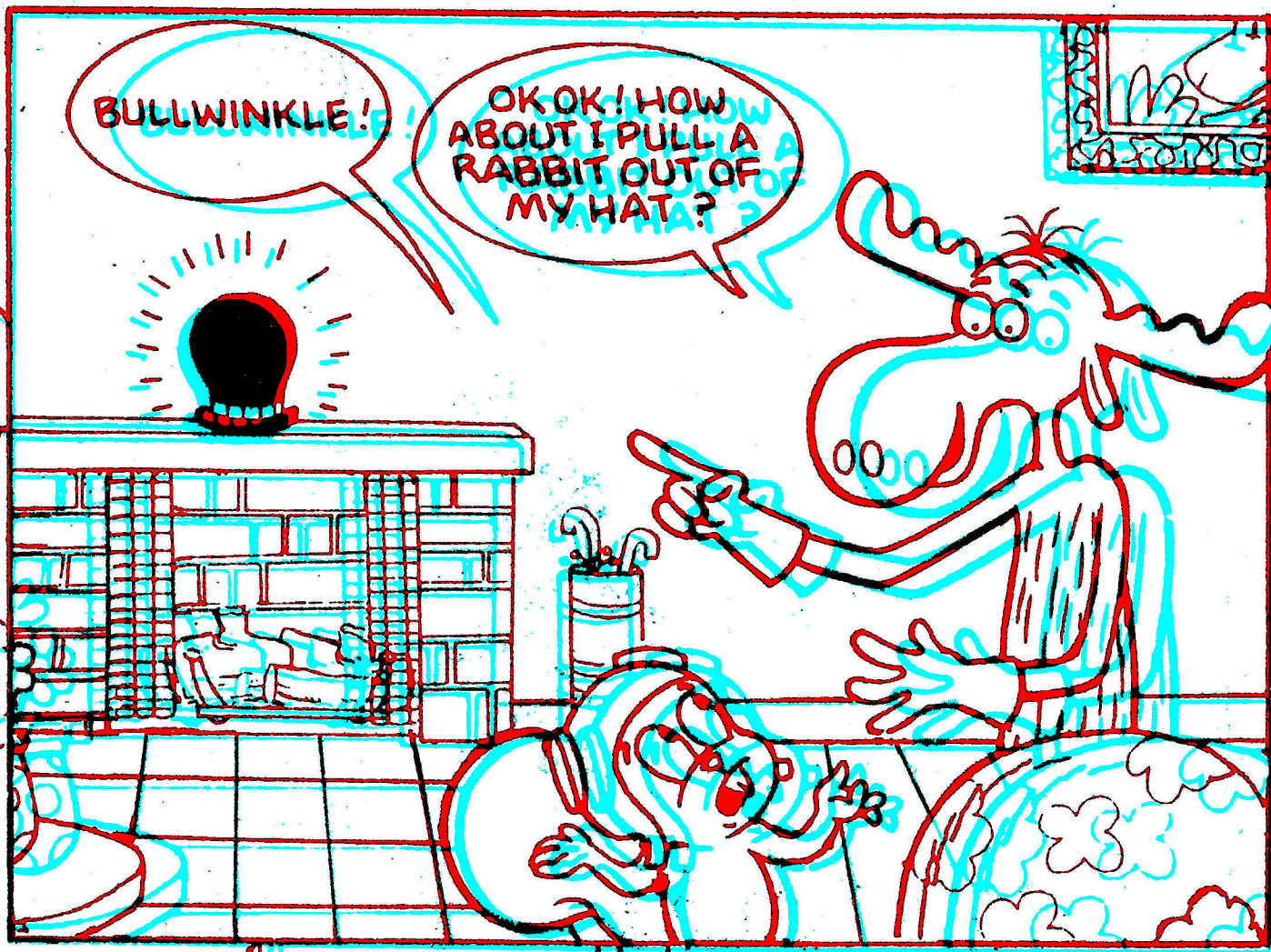
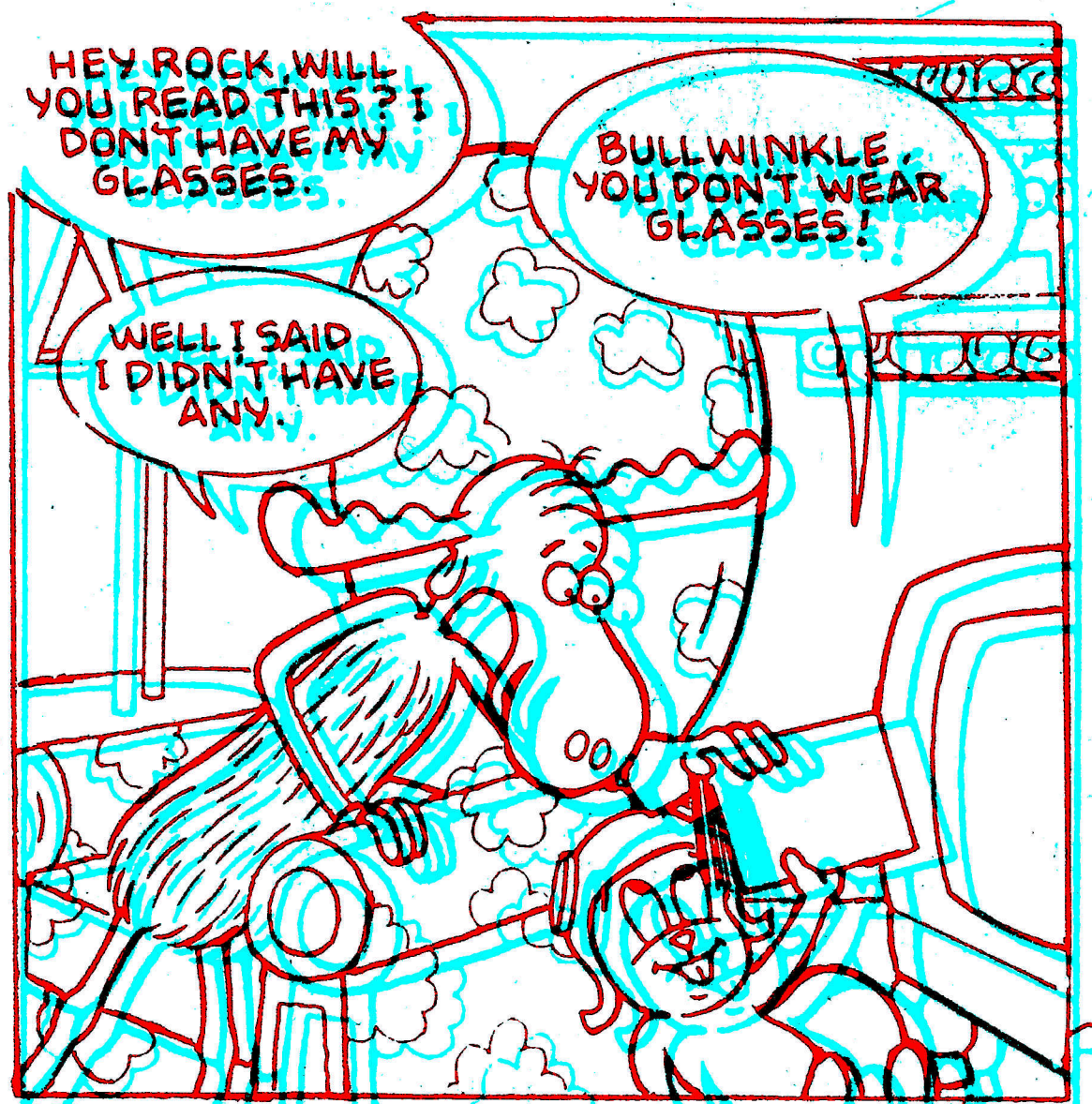
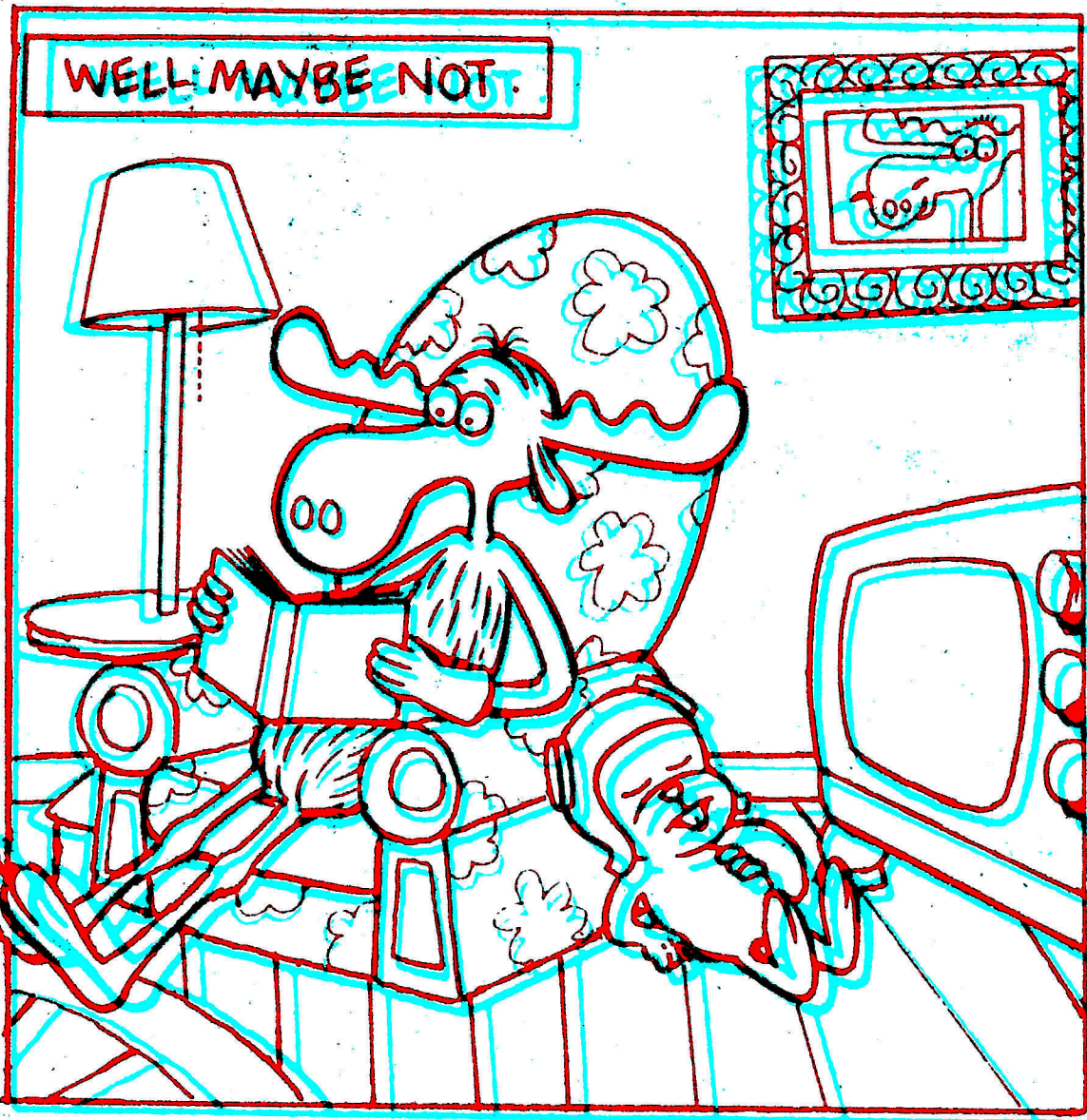
BULLWINKLE THE MOOSE AND ROCKY THE FLYING SQUIRREL IN "THE KIRWARD DERBY"

THINGS ARE USUALLY PRETTY
PEACEFUL IN FROSTBITE FALLS
MINNESOTA. THE CITIZENS
JUST SWAP YARNS, PLAY
TIDDLY-WINKS OR CHECKERS.

BUT HERE IN THE
HOME OF OUR HEROES
IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

WRITTEN BY
JOHN STEPHENSON
ART, LETTERING &
JORGE PACHECO

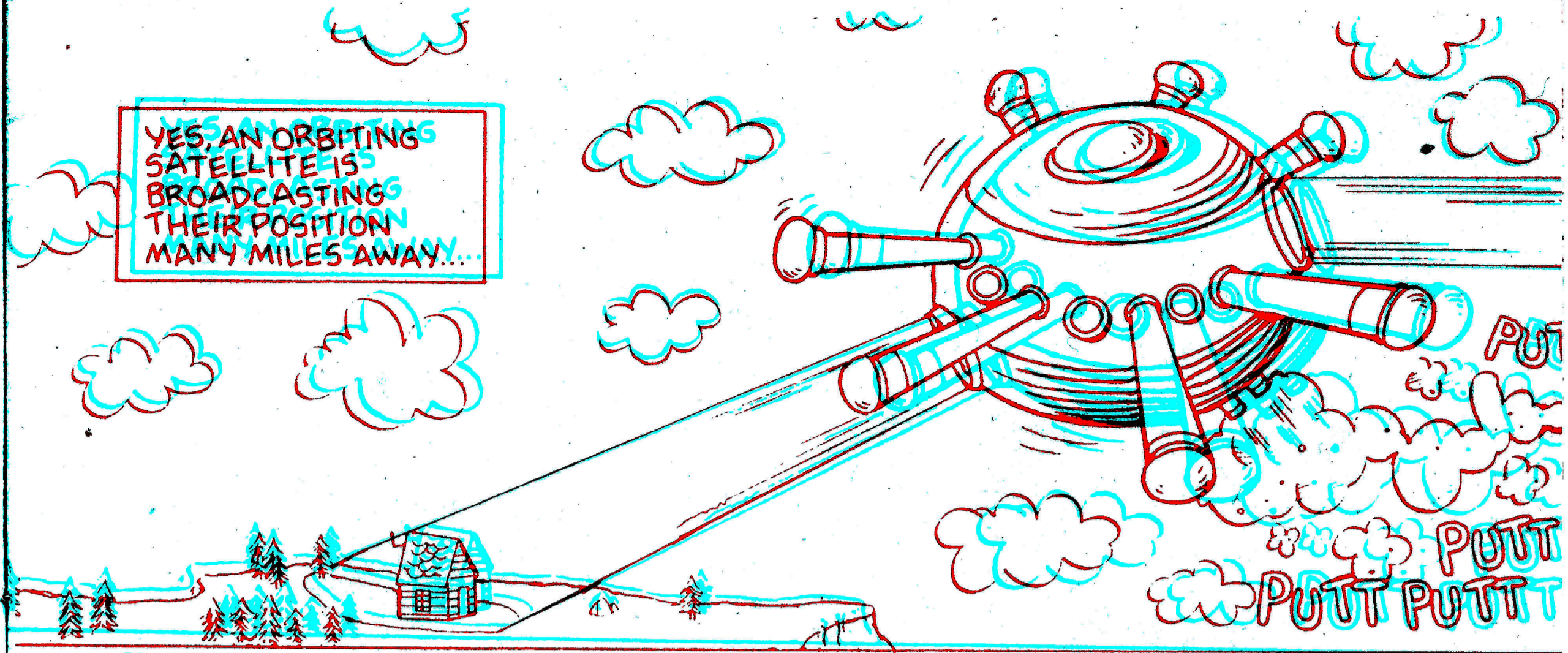




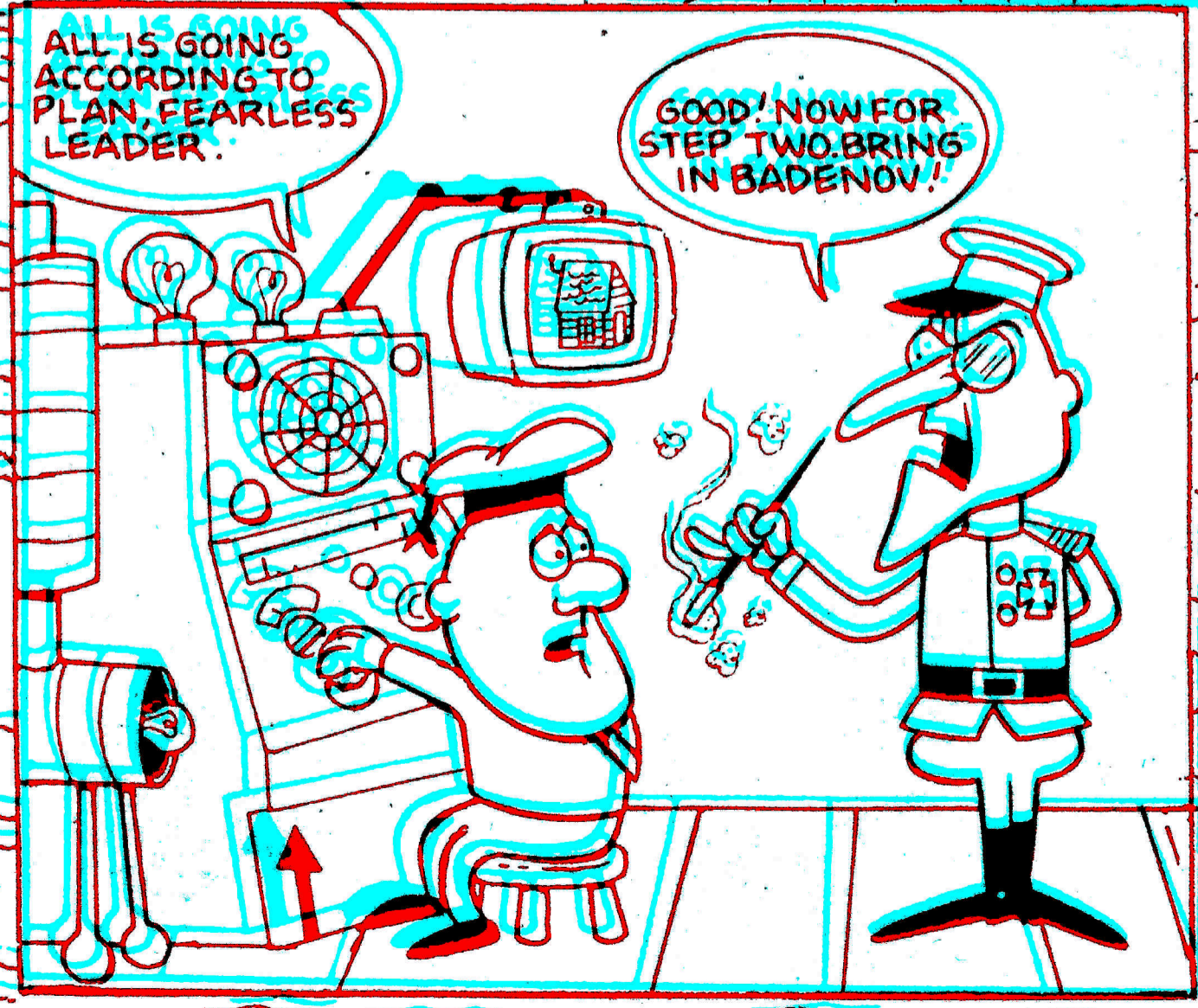
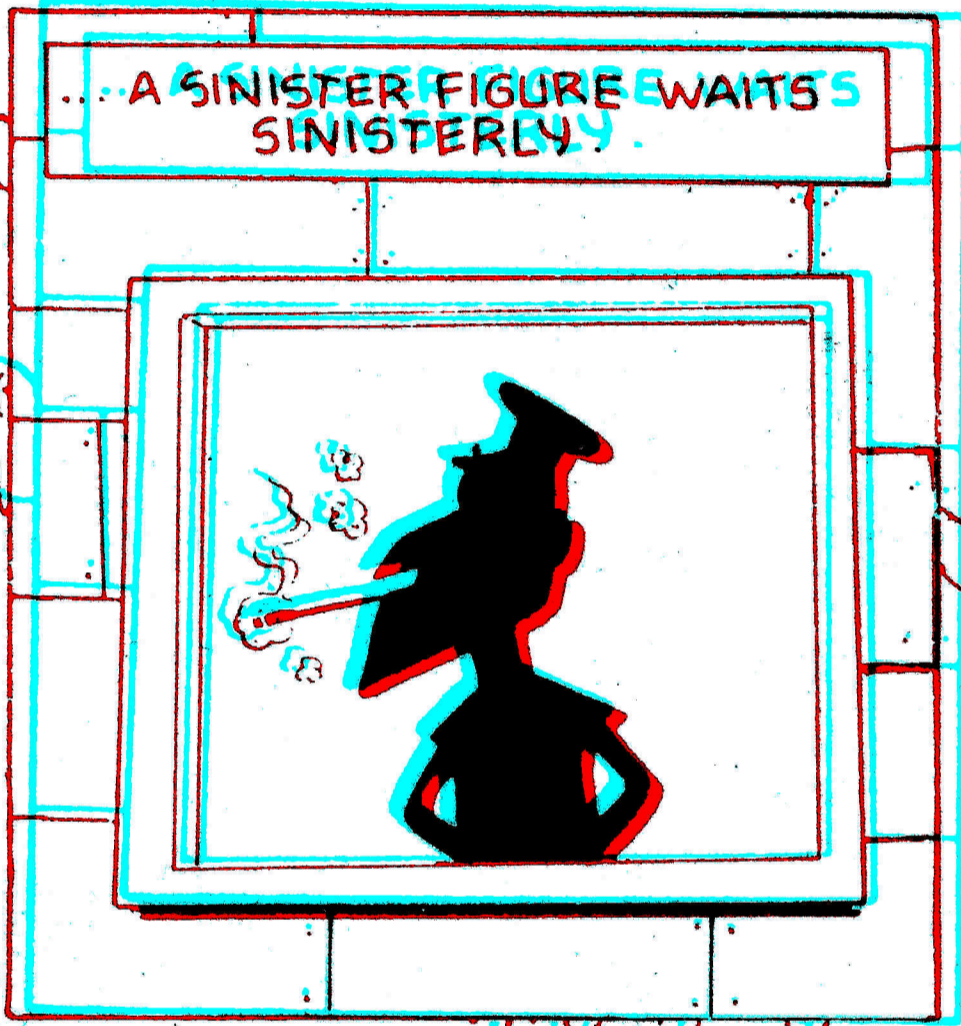
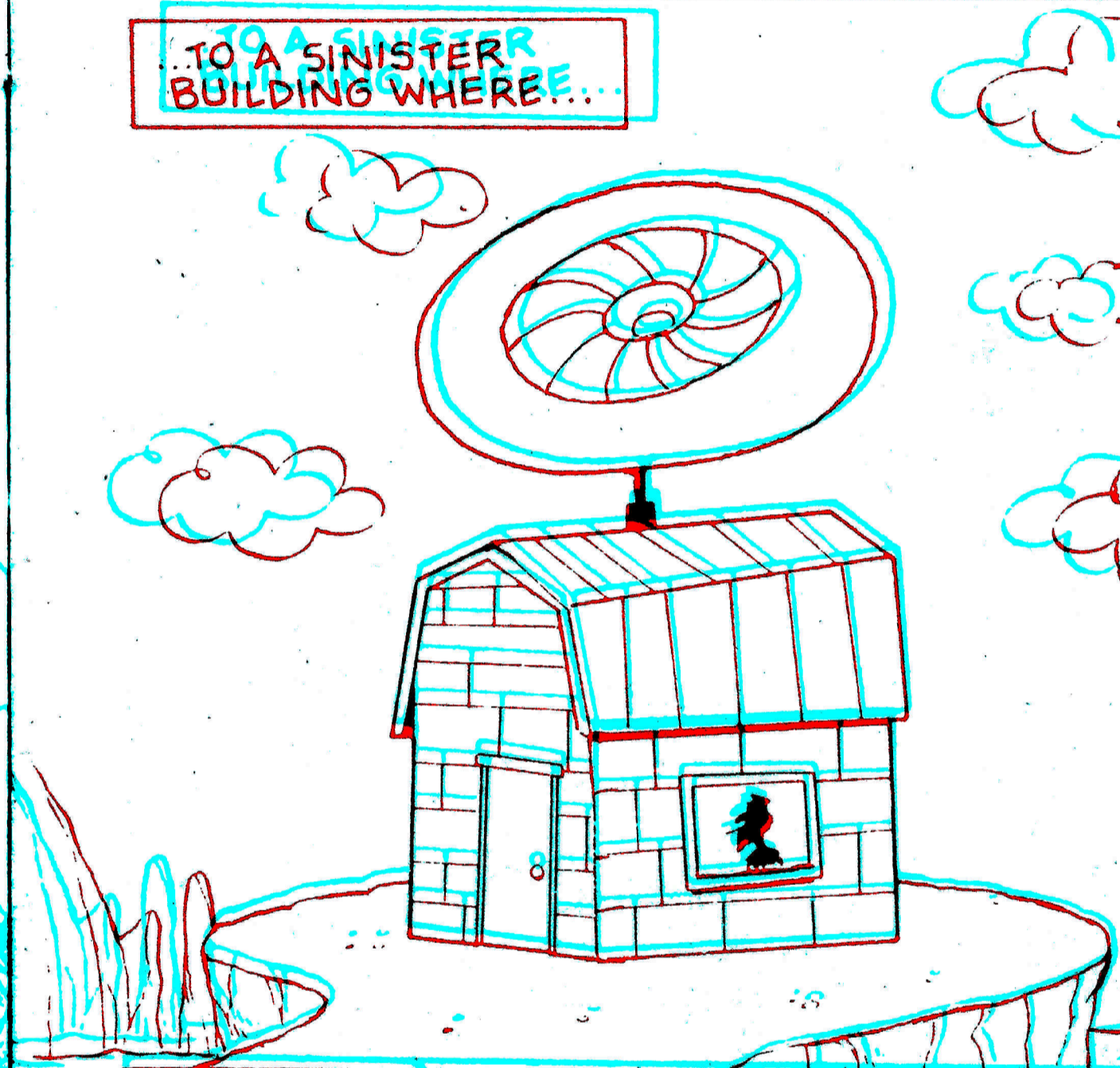
LITTLE DID OUR HEROES KNOW THAT AT THAT MOMENT THEY WERE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY BY AN EYE HIGH IN THE SKY.

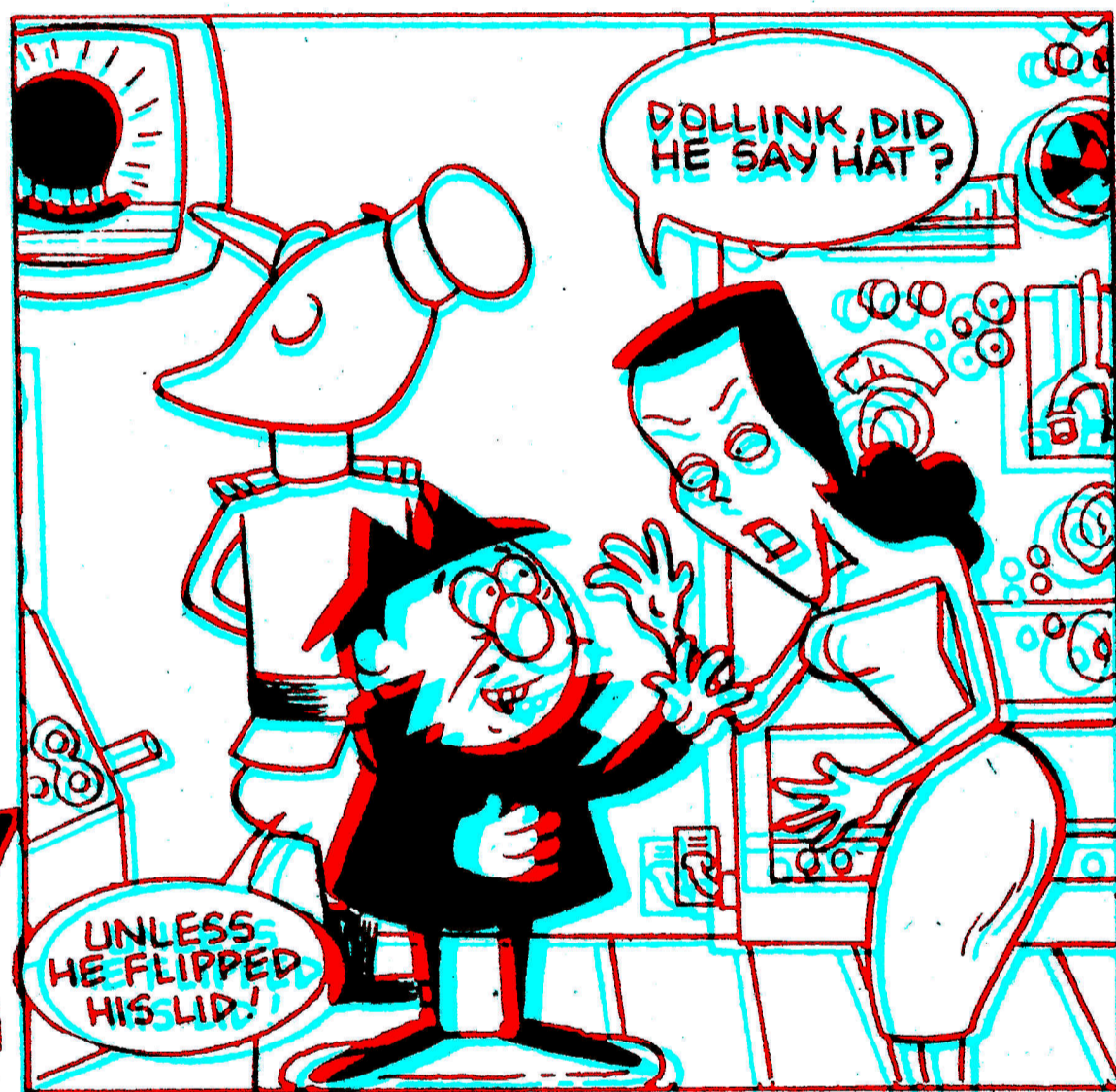
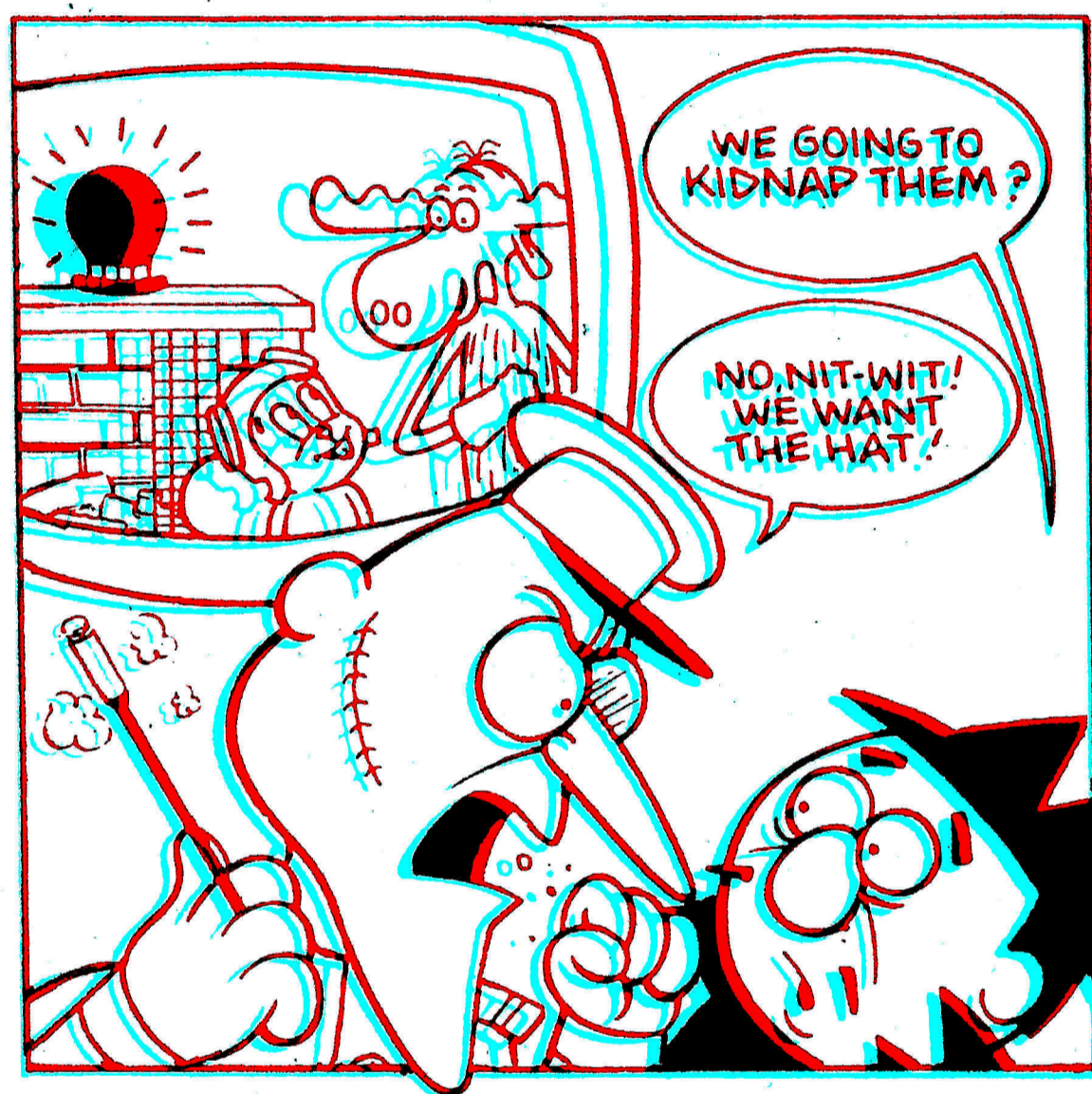
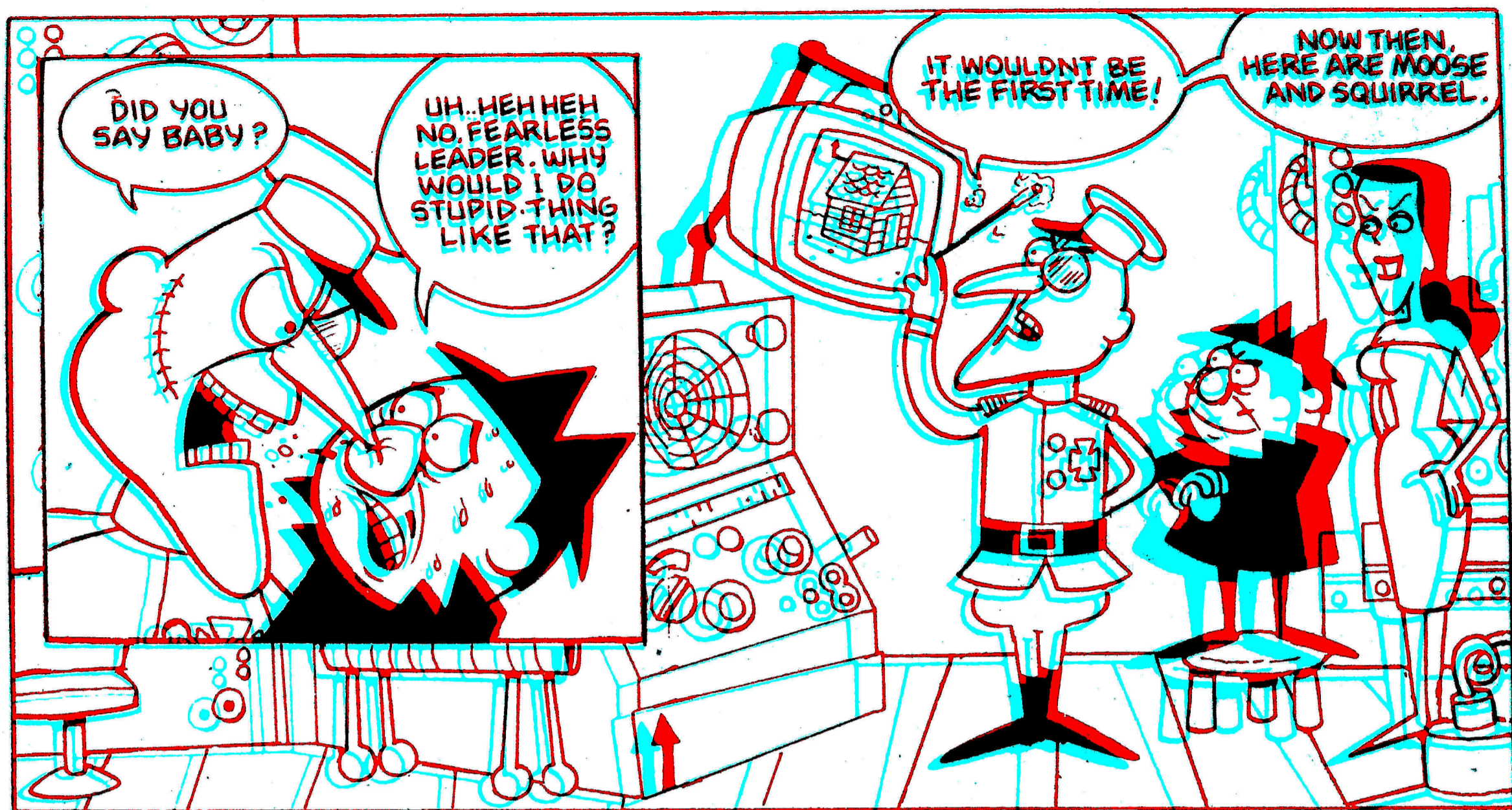


YES, AN ORBITING
SATELLITE IS
BROADCASTING
THEIR POSITION
MANY MILES AWAY...

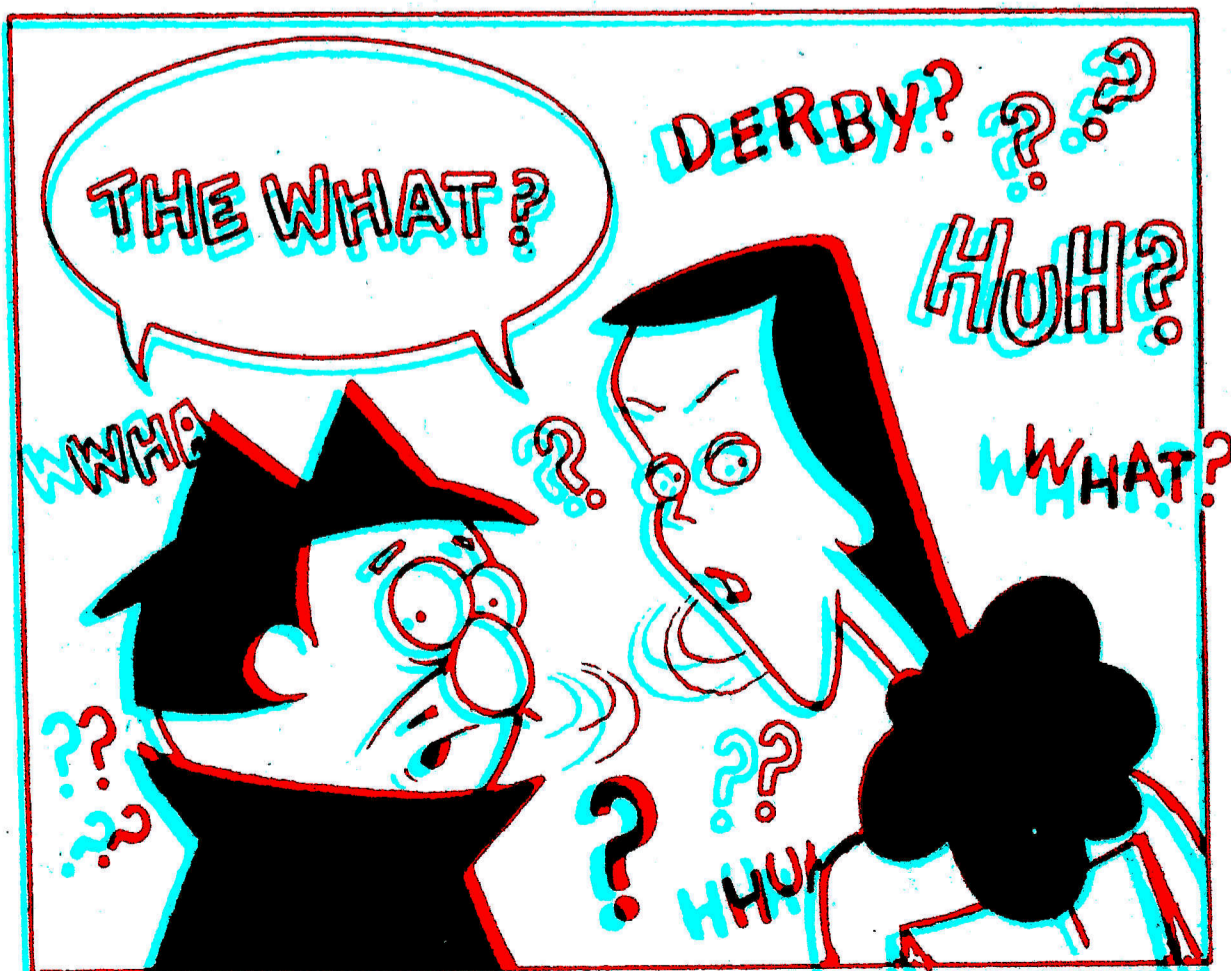
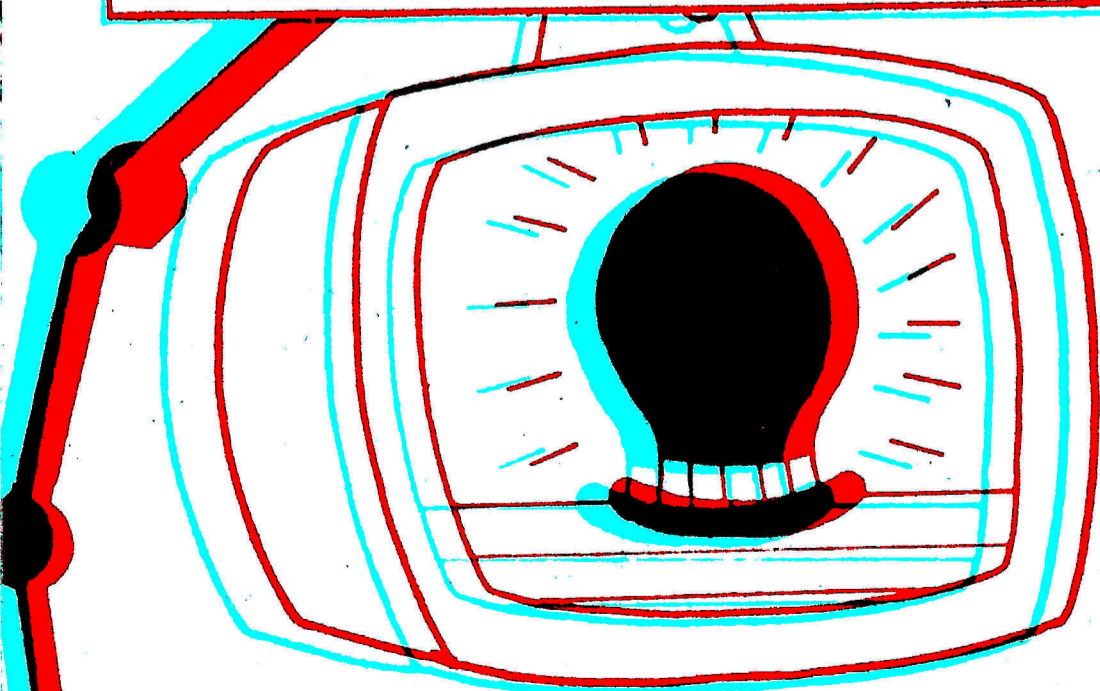


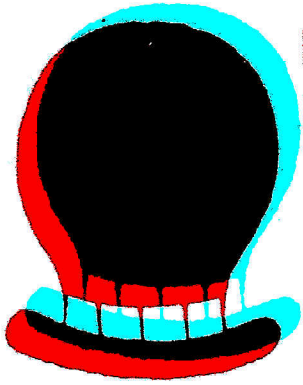
TO A SINISTER
BUILDING WHERE...





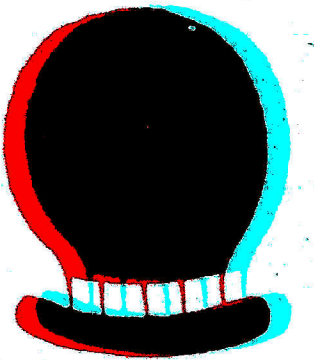
NOT ENTIRELY. FOR THIS SEEMINGLY INNOCENT HAT IN OUR HEROES HOUSE IS NONE OTHER THAN THE WORLD FAMOUS KIRWARD DERBY!



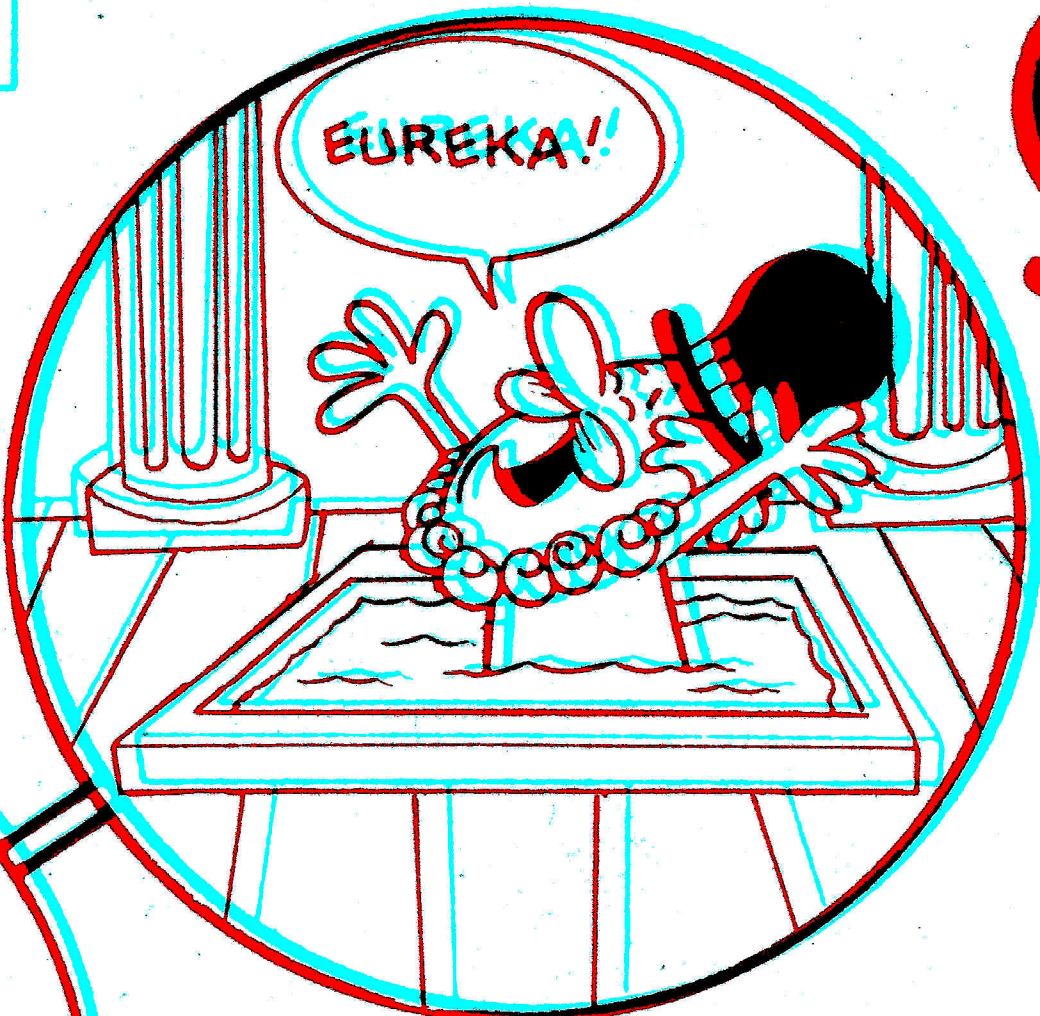


I SAID, THE
KIRWARD DERBY.

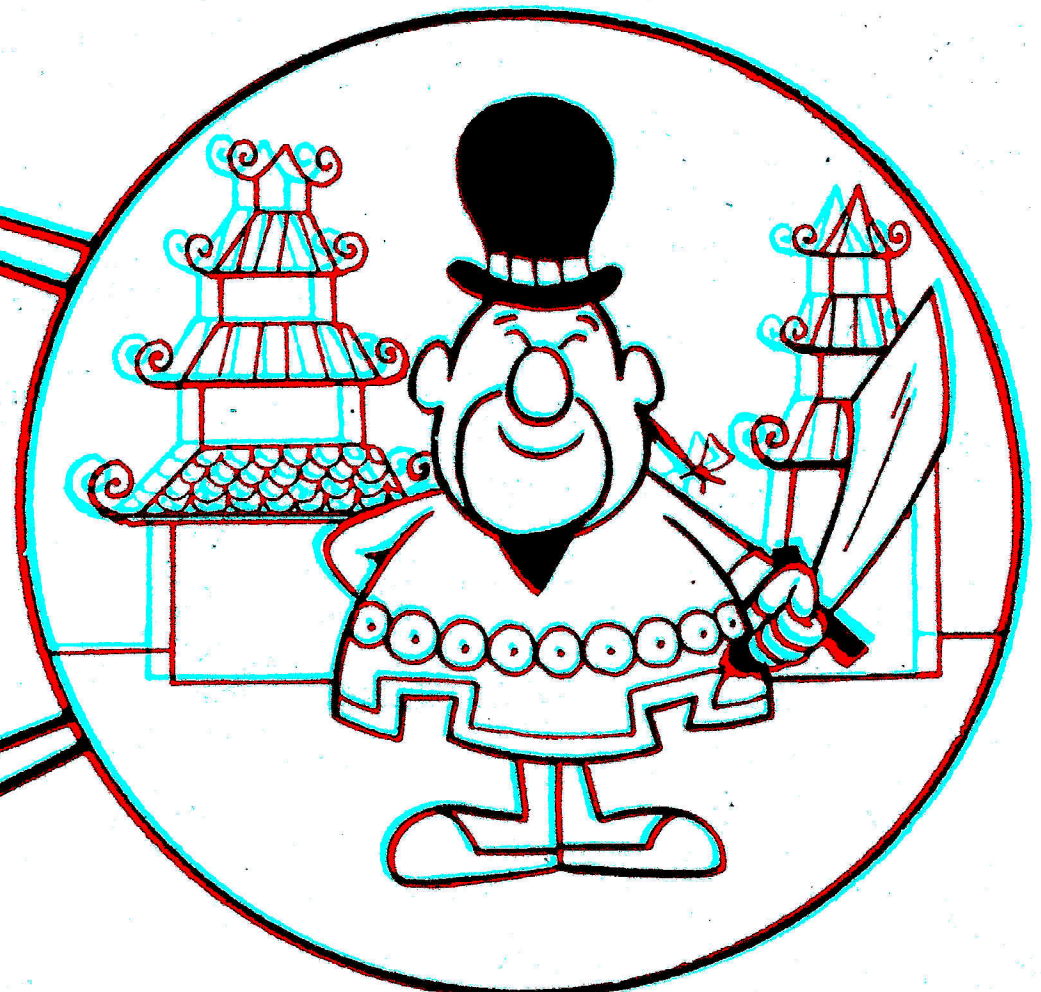
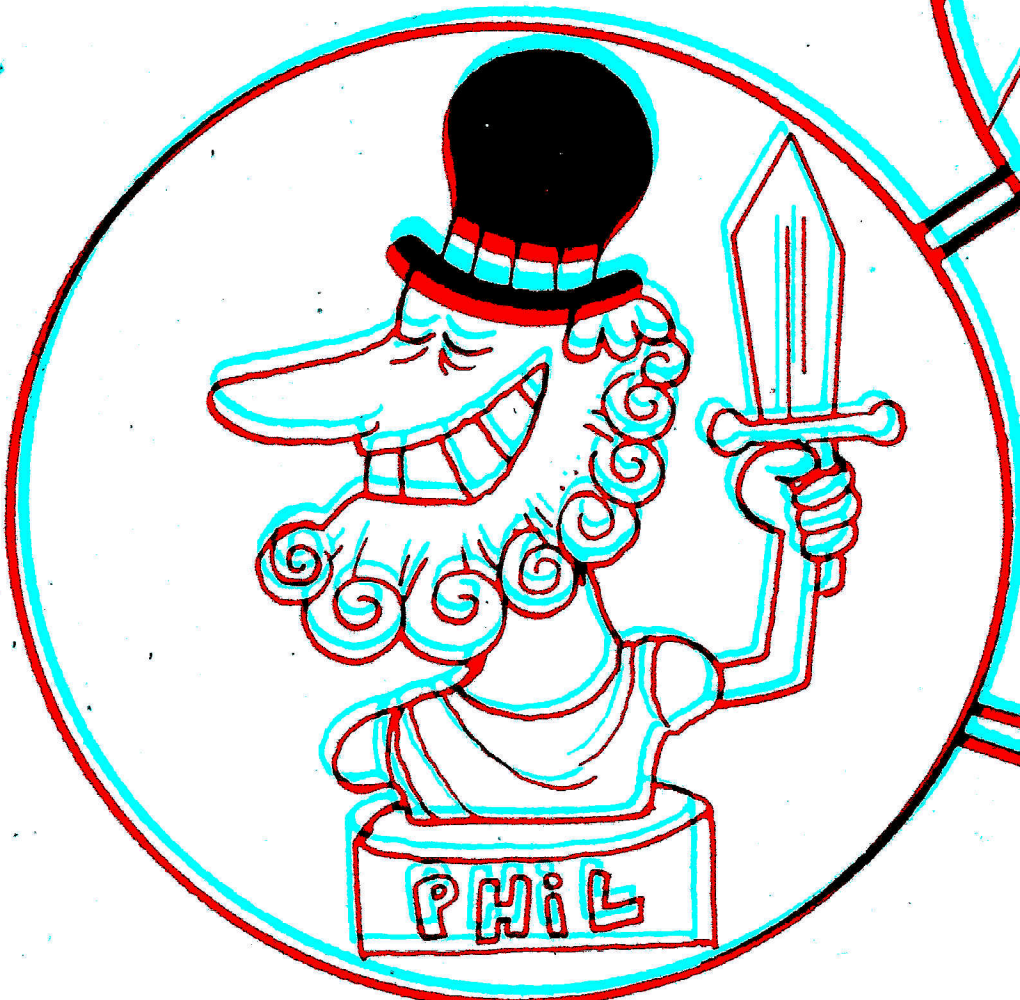
THIS FABULOUS
HAT WAS FIRST
DISCOVERED BY
ARISTOTLE...



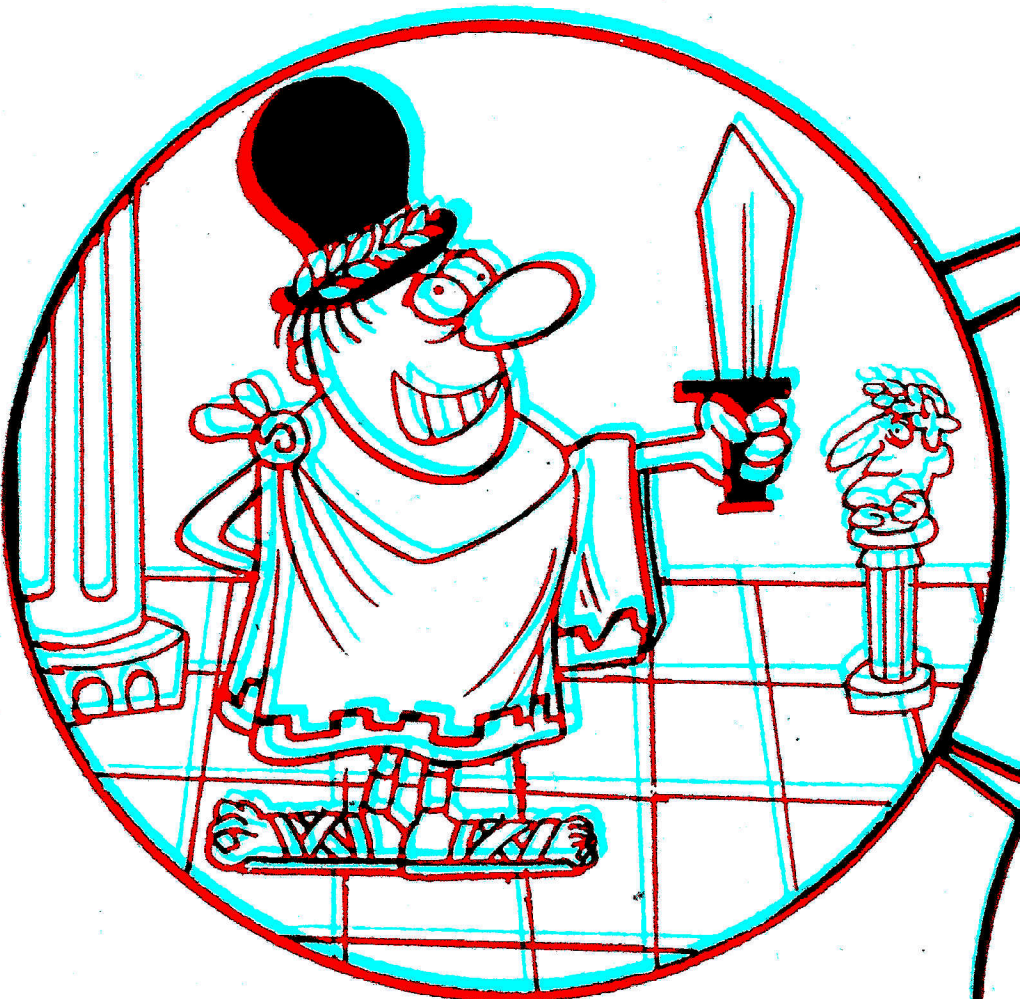
...THEN BY PHILLIP OF MACEDONIA
WHEN HE CONQUERED THE WORLD...



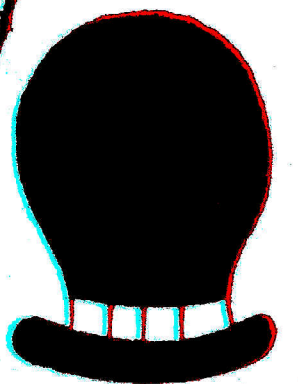
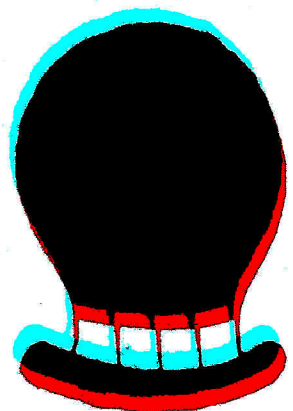
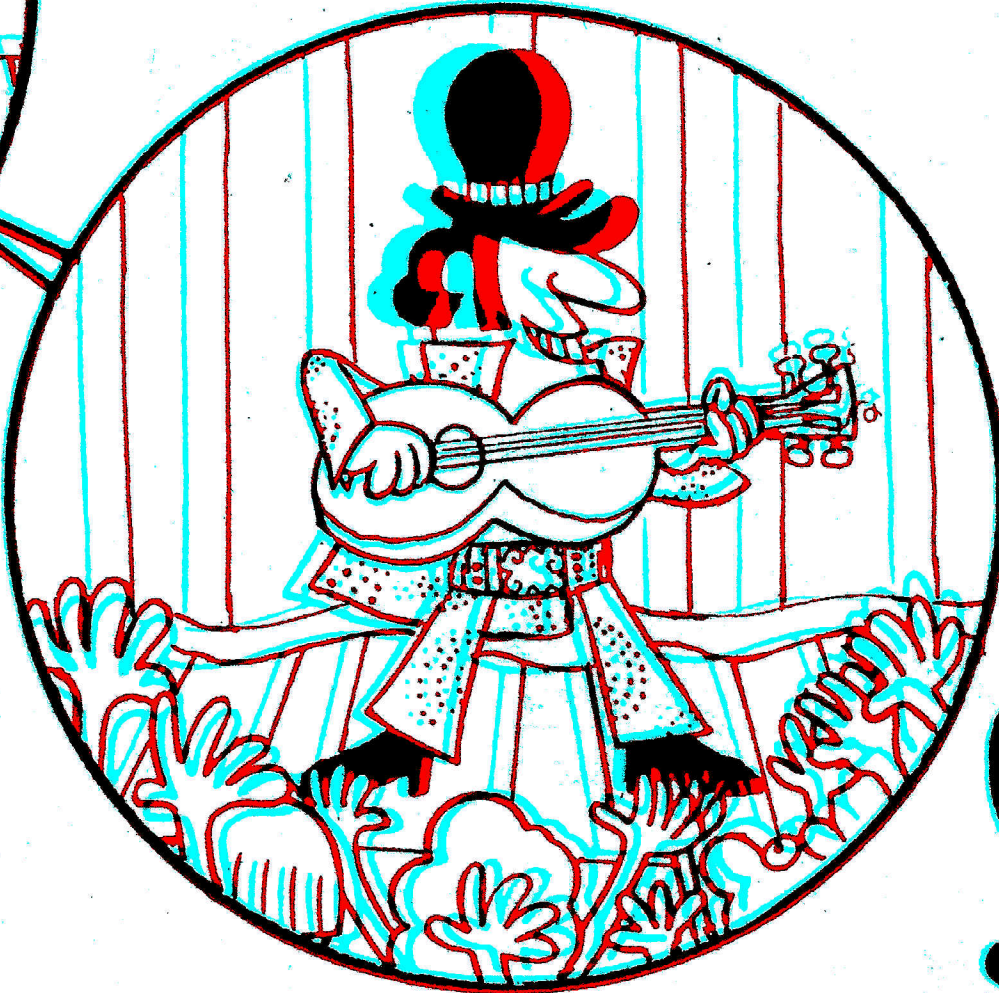
...THEN BY GENGHIS KHAN
WHEN HE CONQUERED THE WORLD....

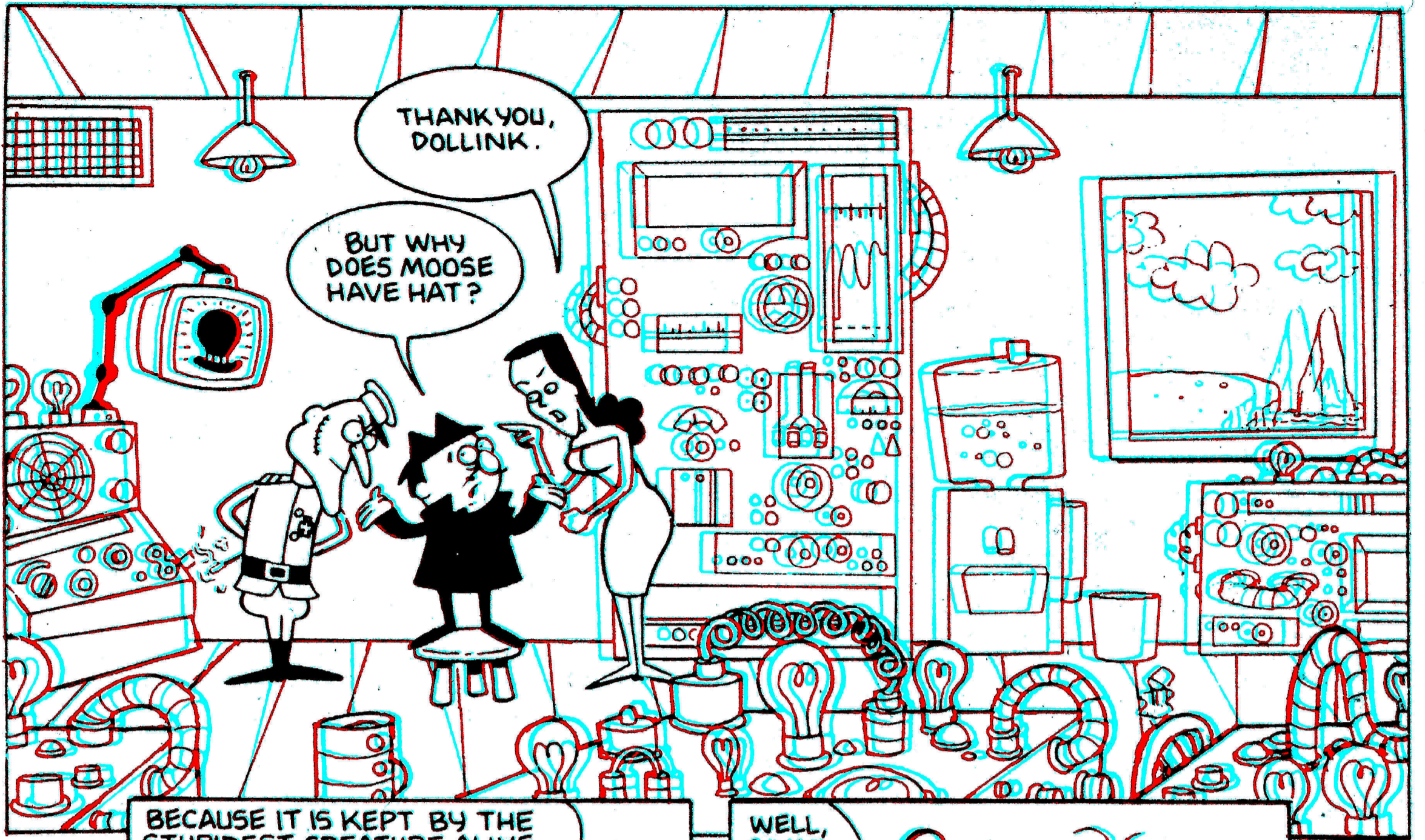


...THEN BY CAESAR WHEN
HE CONQUERED THE WORLD...



...THEN BY ELVIS WHEN HE...
OH, NEVER MIND.



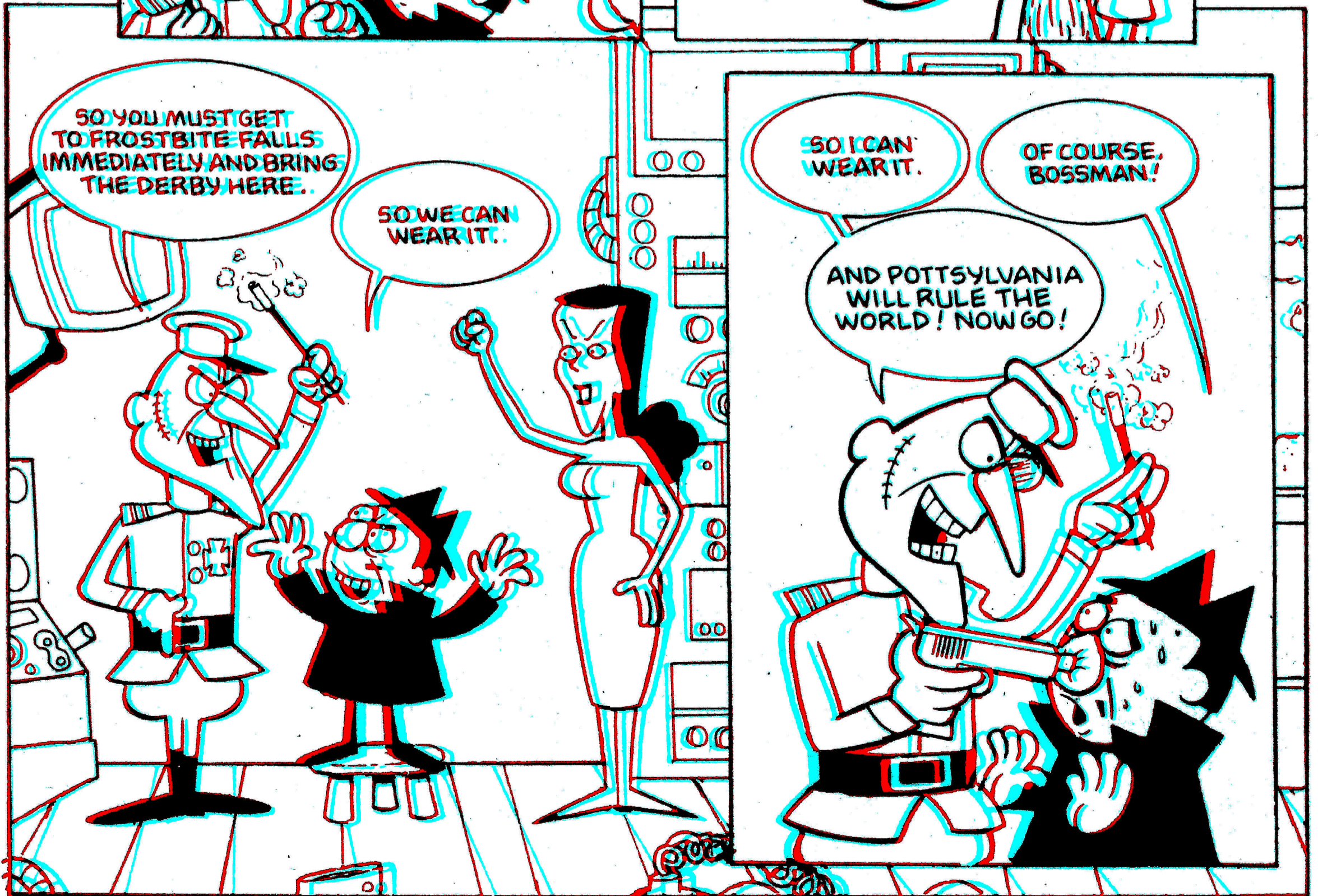


THANK YOU,
DOLLINK.

BUT WHY
DOES MOOSE
HAVE HAT?

BECAUSE IT IS KEPT BY THE
STUPIDEST CREATURE ALIVE.

WELL,
SOME-
BODYS
GOTTA
DO IT.



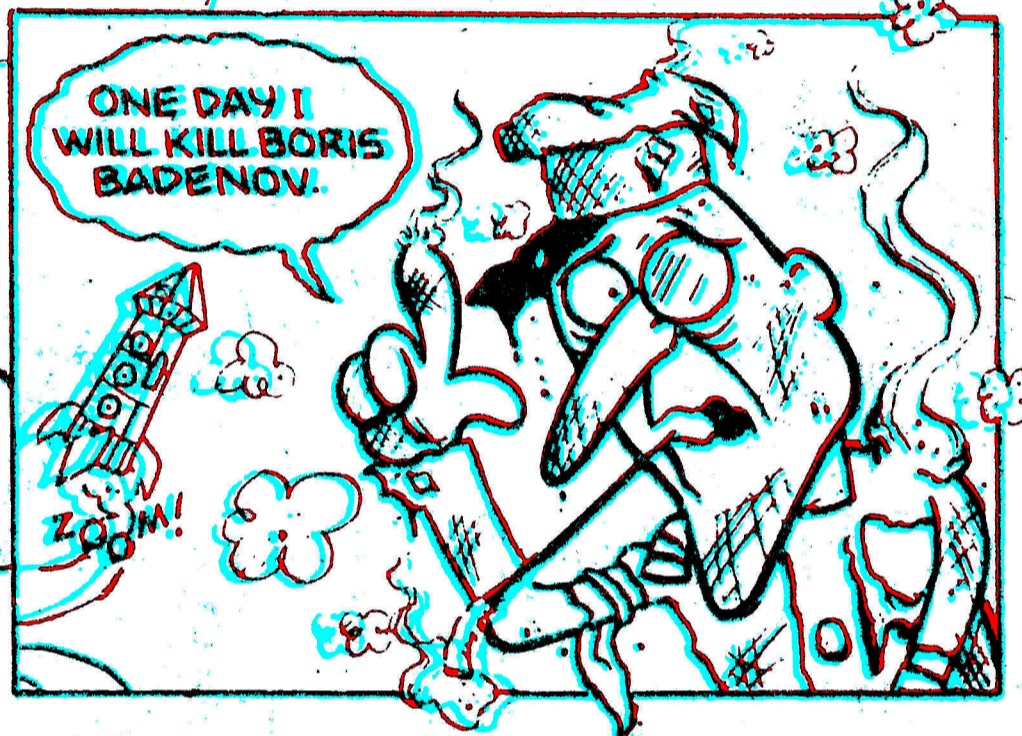
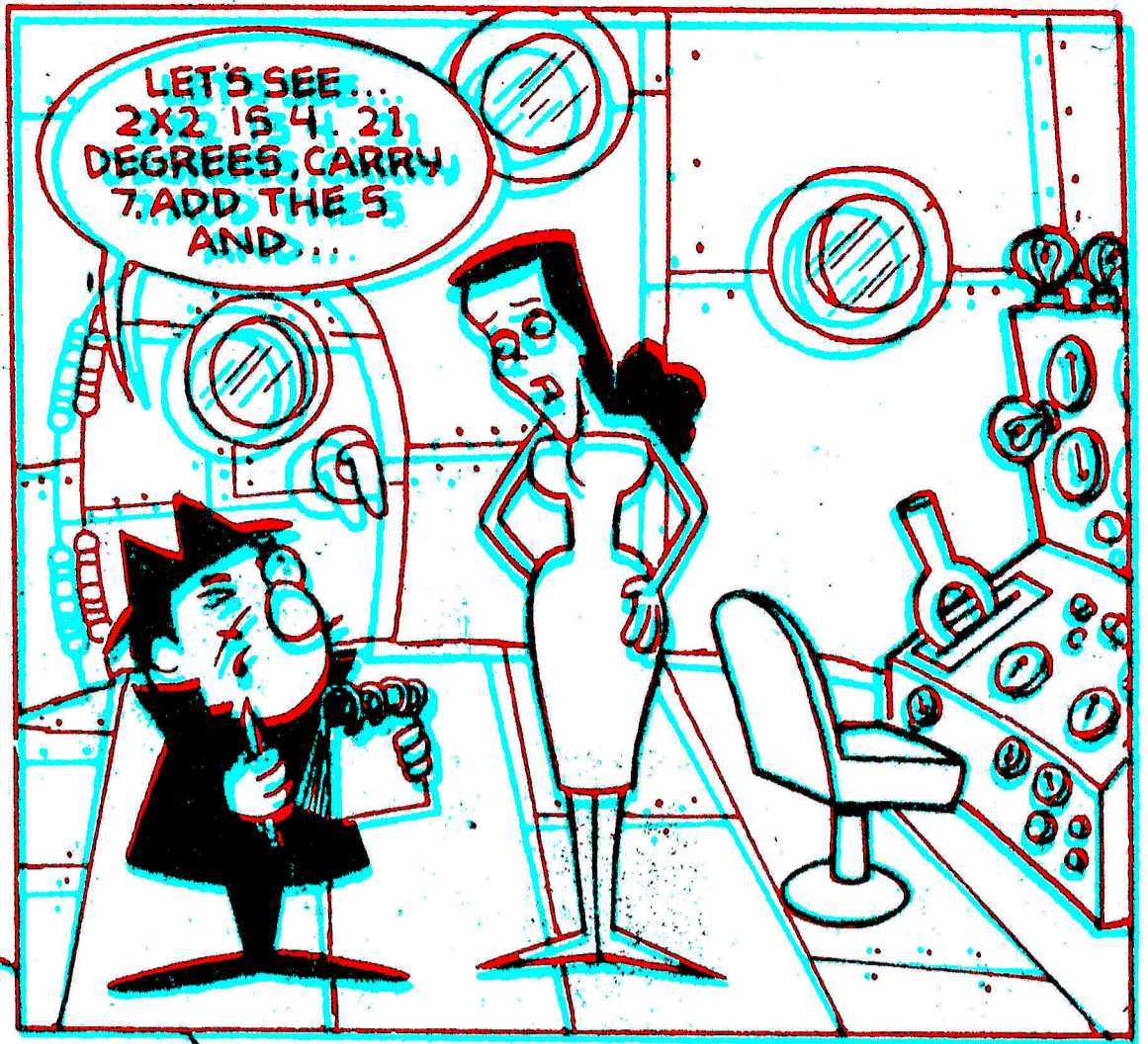
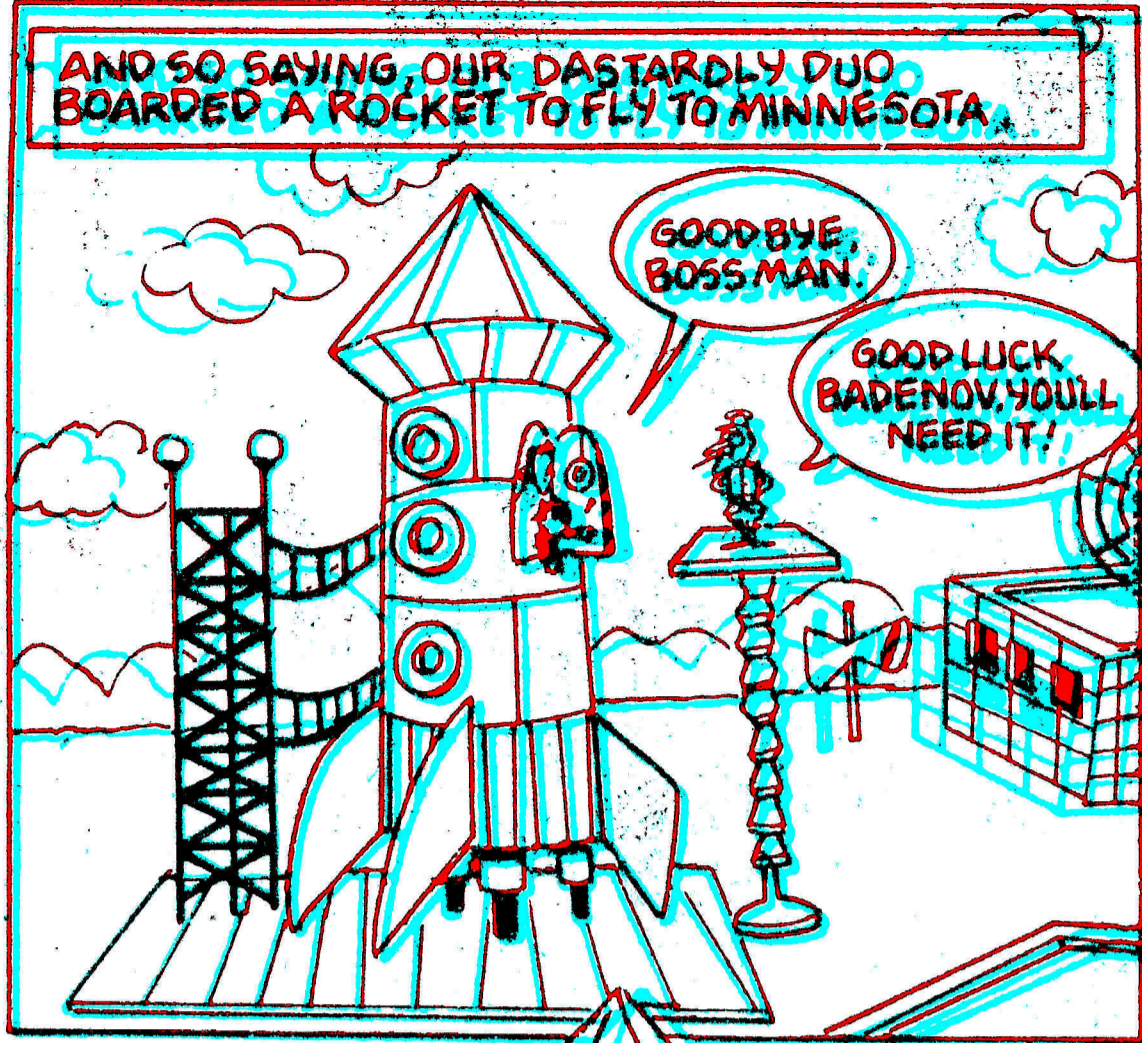
SO YOU MUST GET
TO FROSTBITE FALLS
IMMEDIATELY AND BRING
THE DERBY HERE.

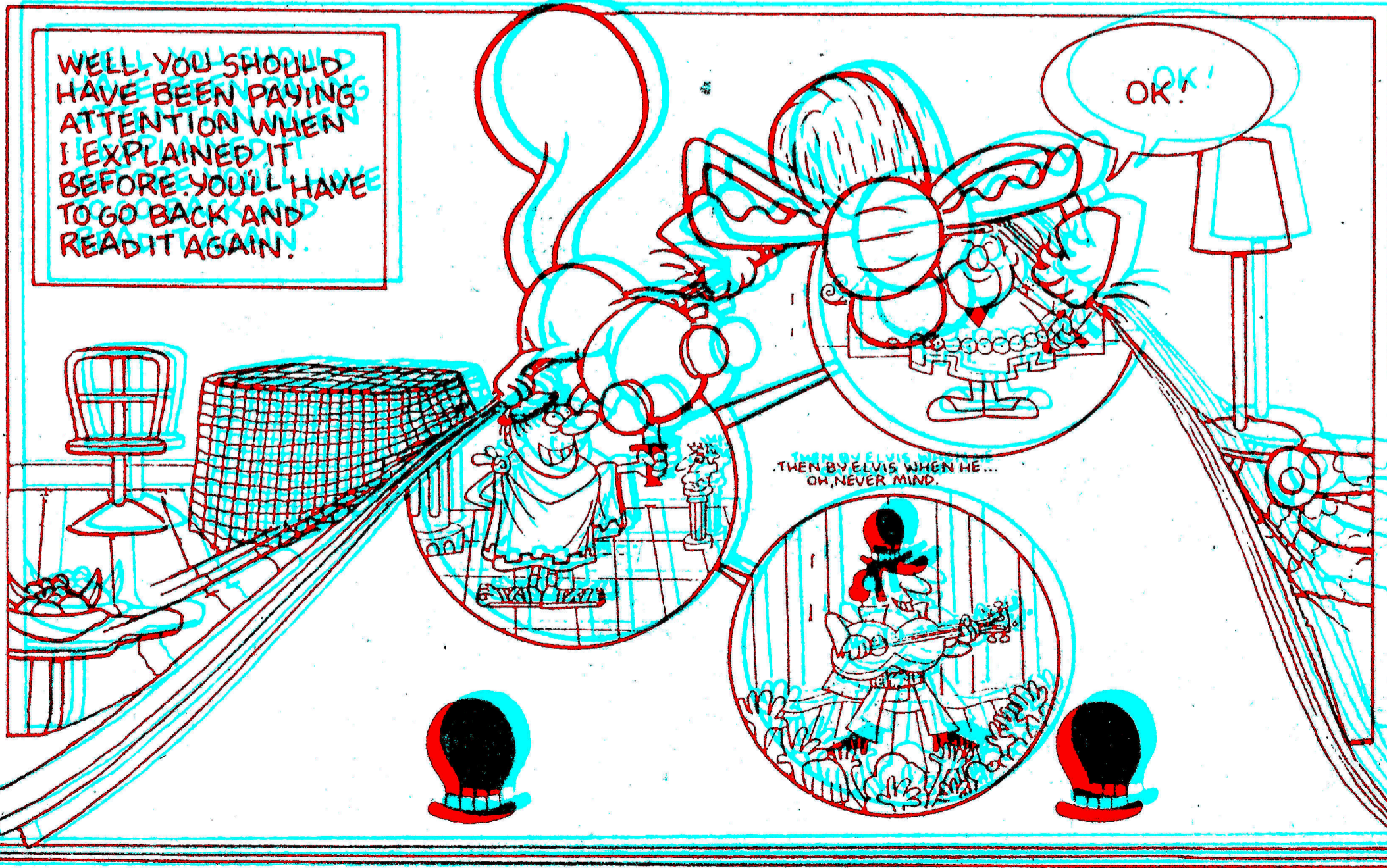
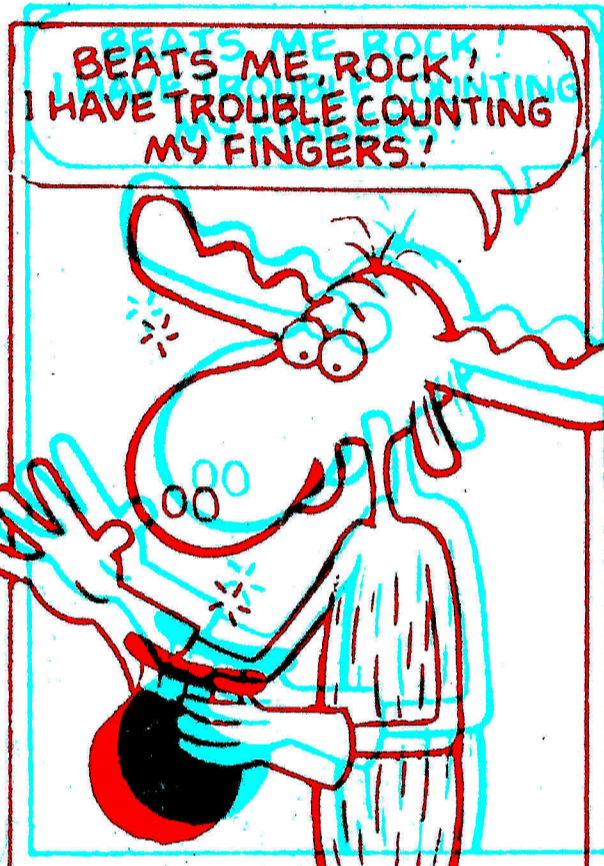
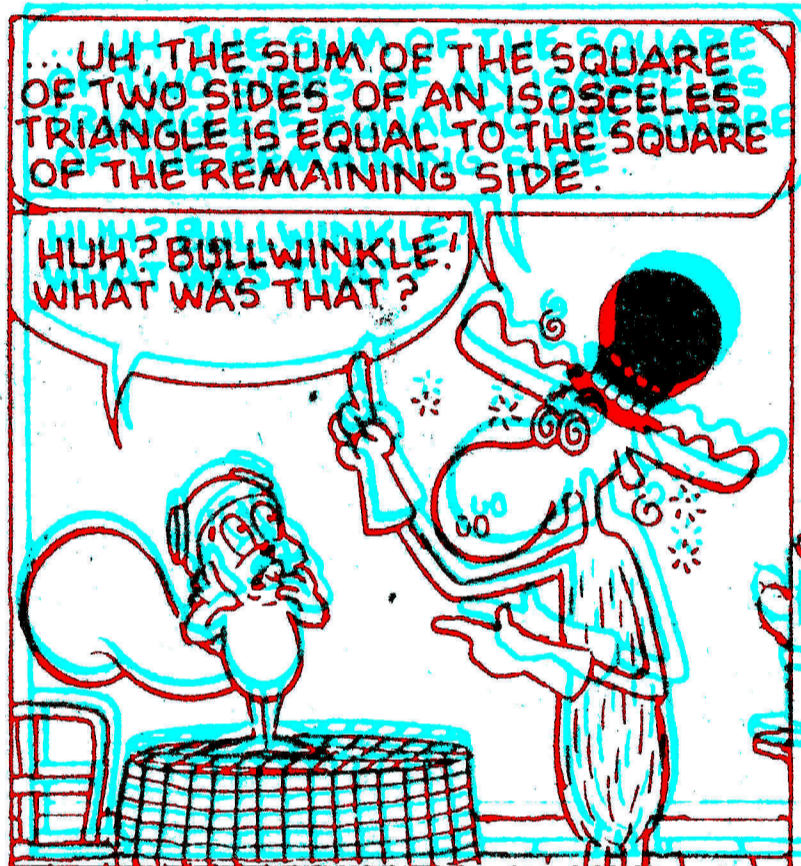
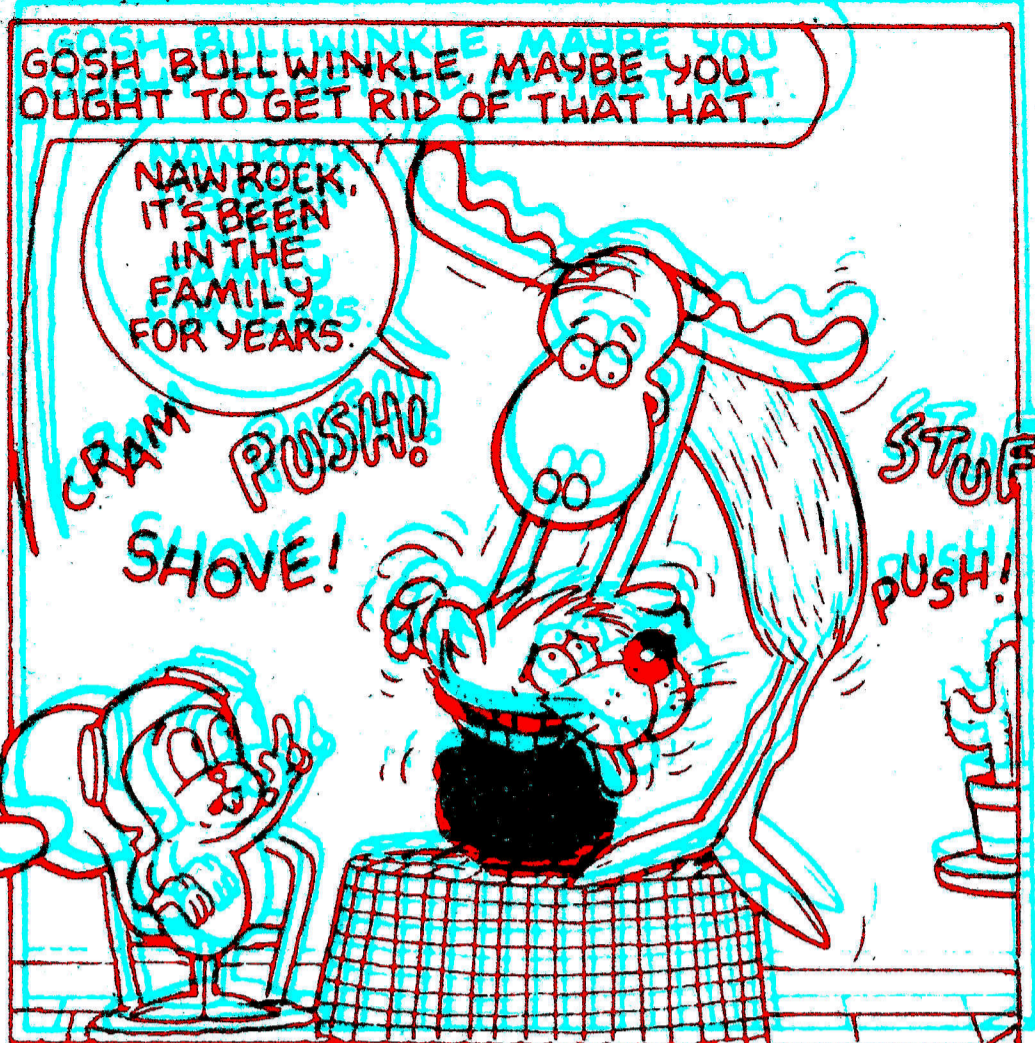
SO WE CAN
WEAR IT.

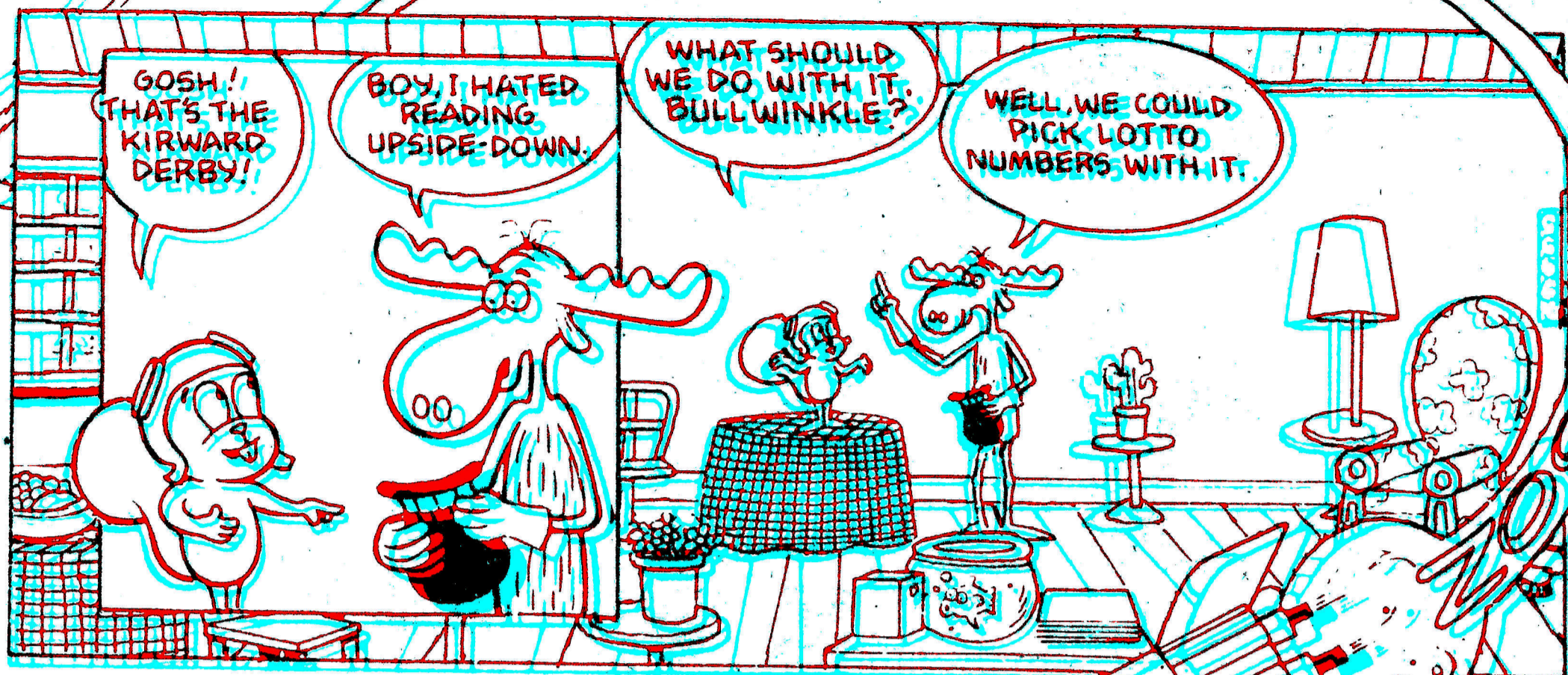
AND POTTSYLVANIA
WILL RULE THE
WORLD! NOW GO!

SO I CAN
WEAR IT.

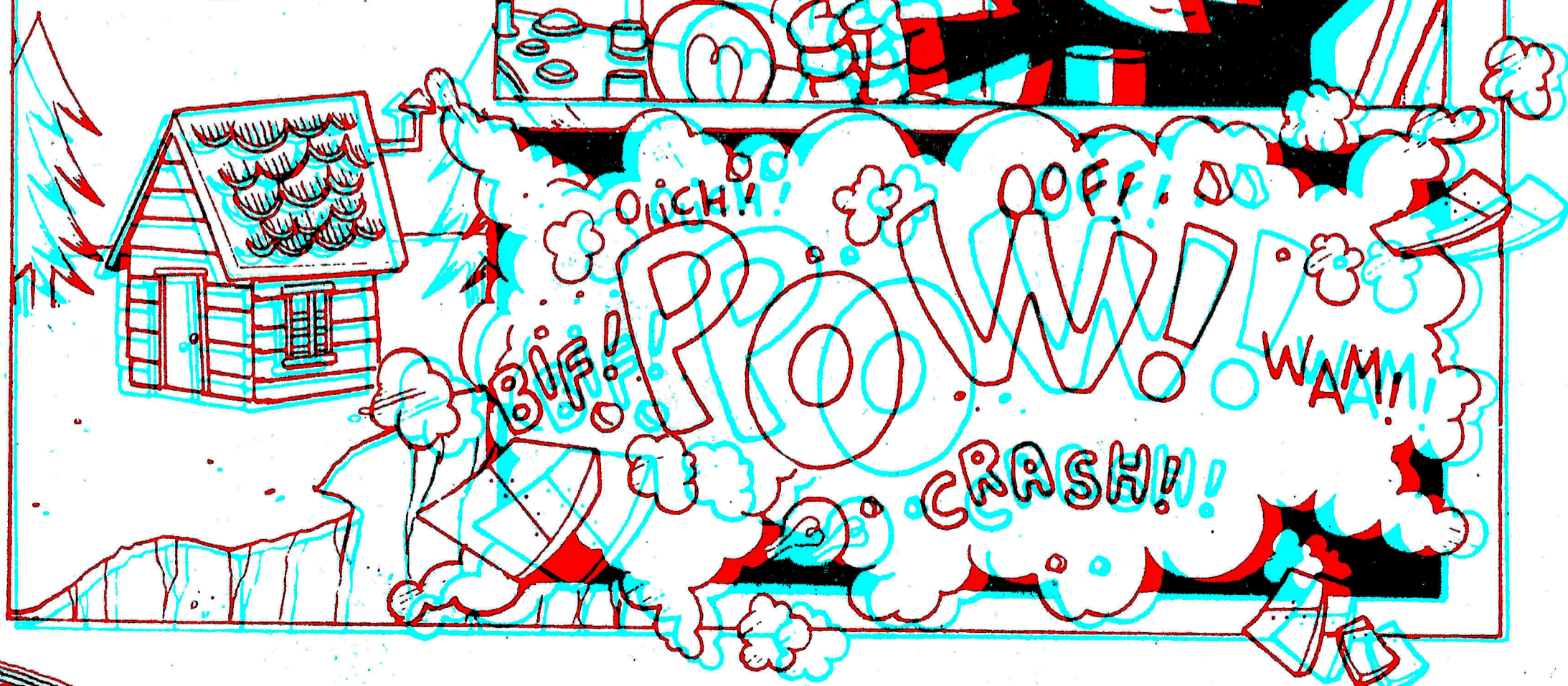
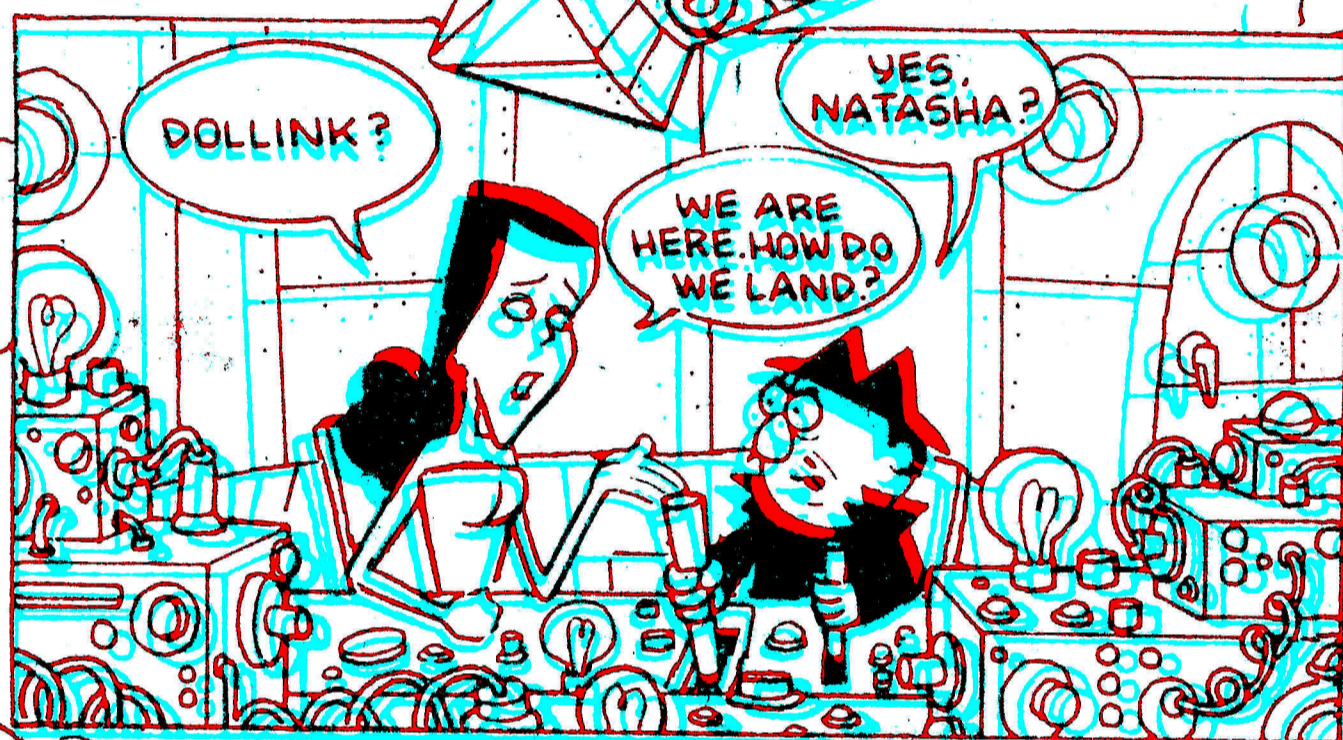
OF COURSE,
BOSSMAN!

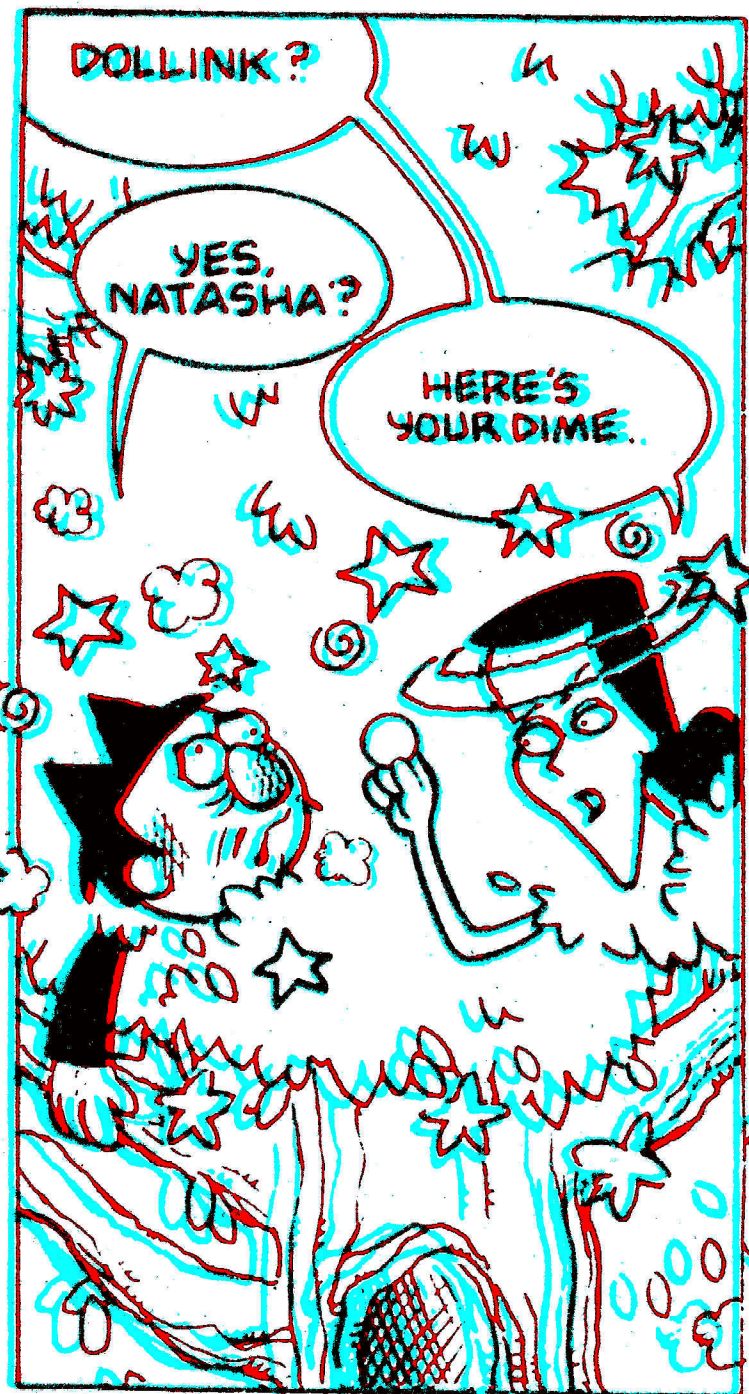






WHILE OUR HEROES ARE DISCUSSING THE HAT, A FAMILIAR ROCKET IS STREAKING TOWARDS THEM.

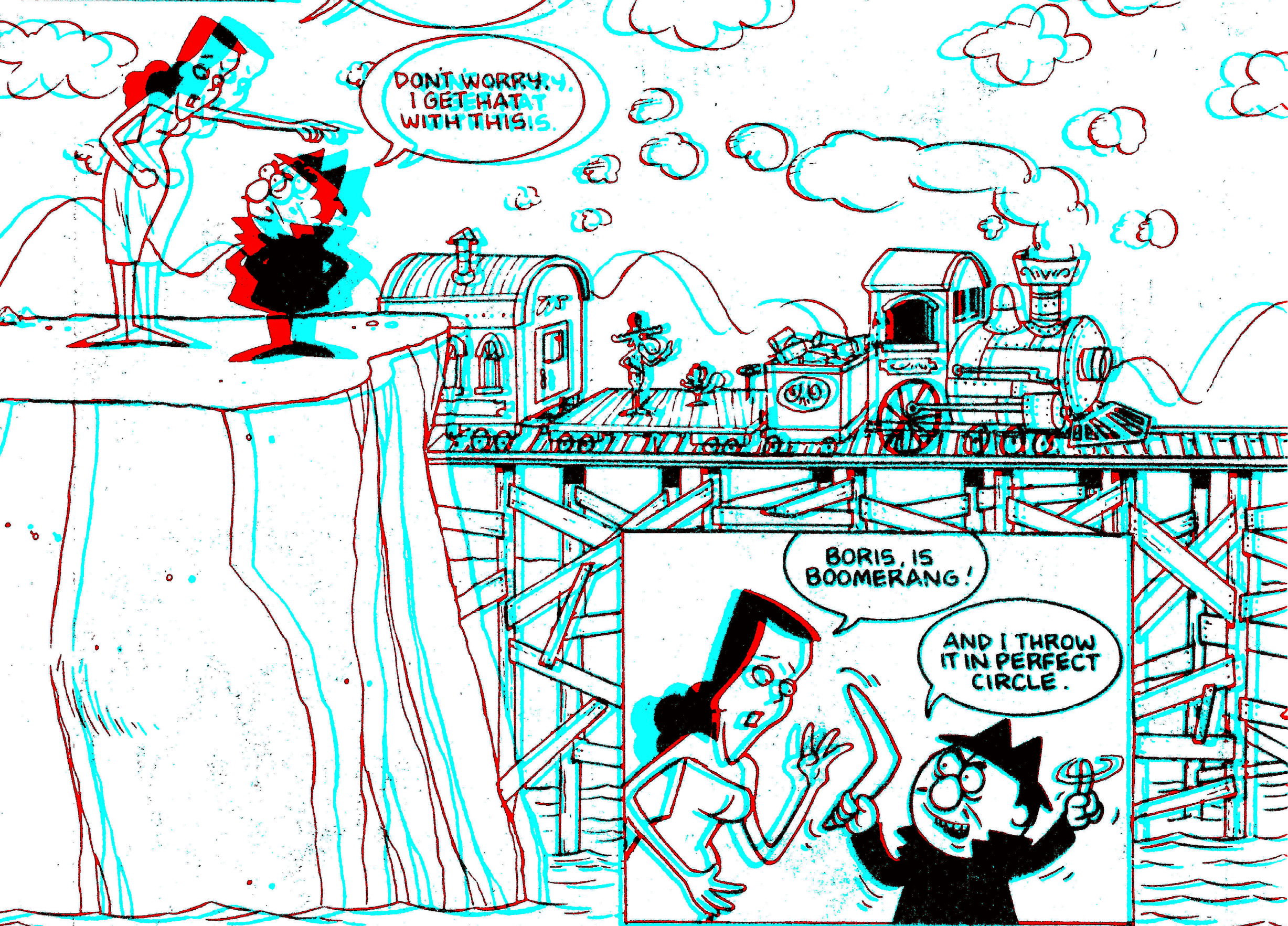


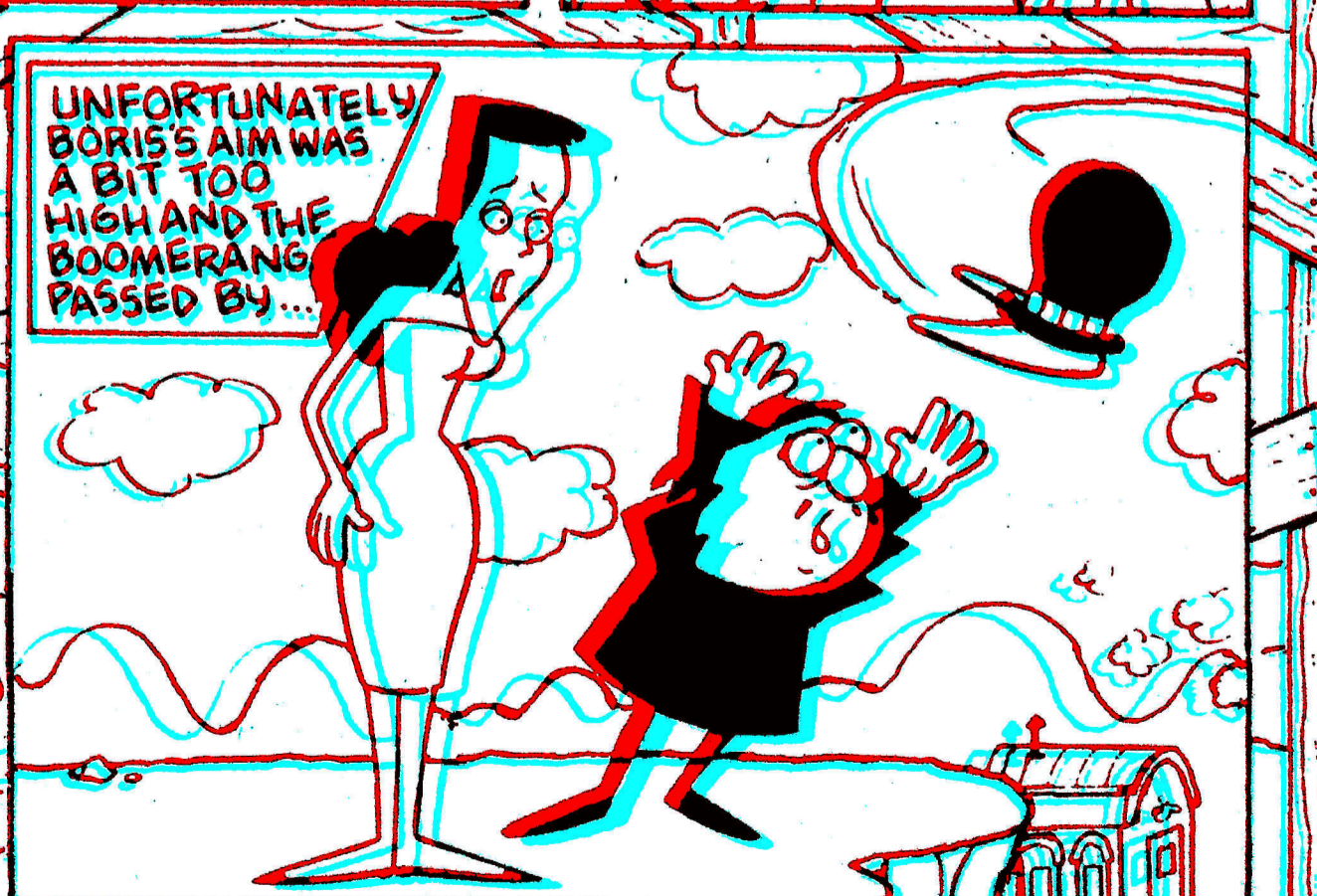
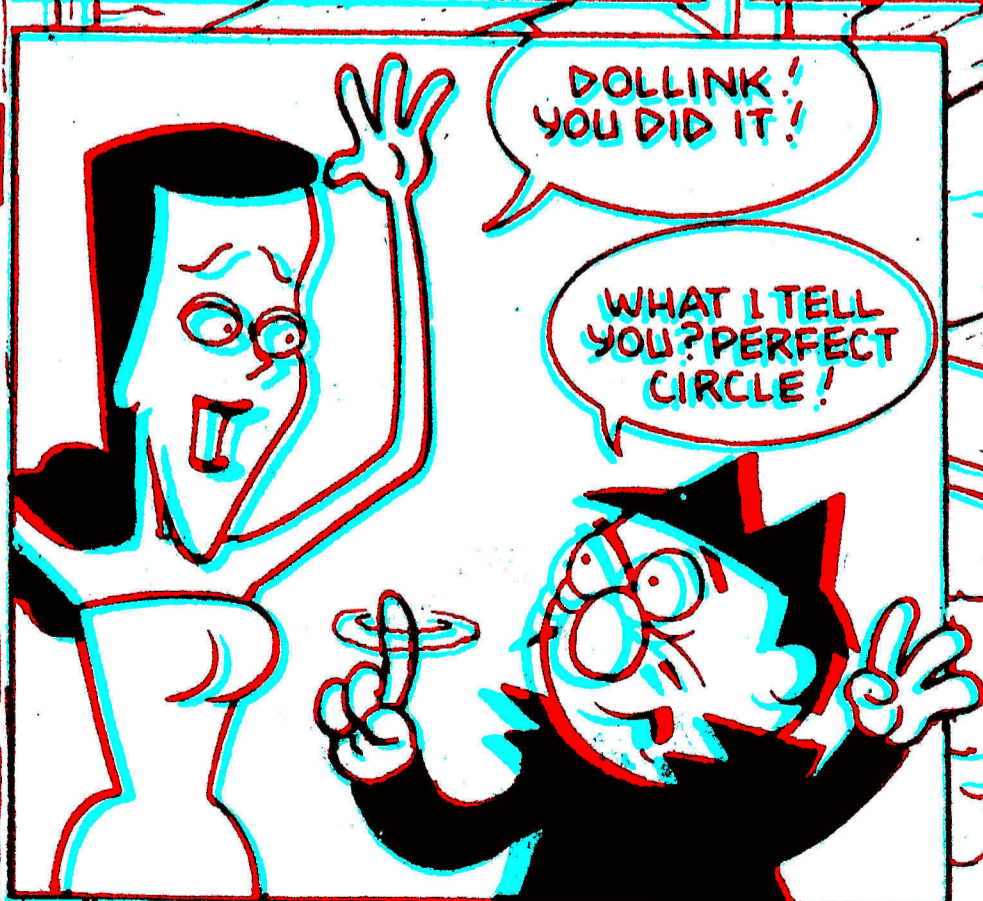
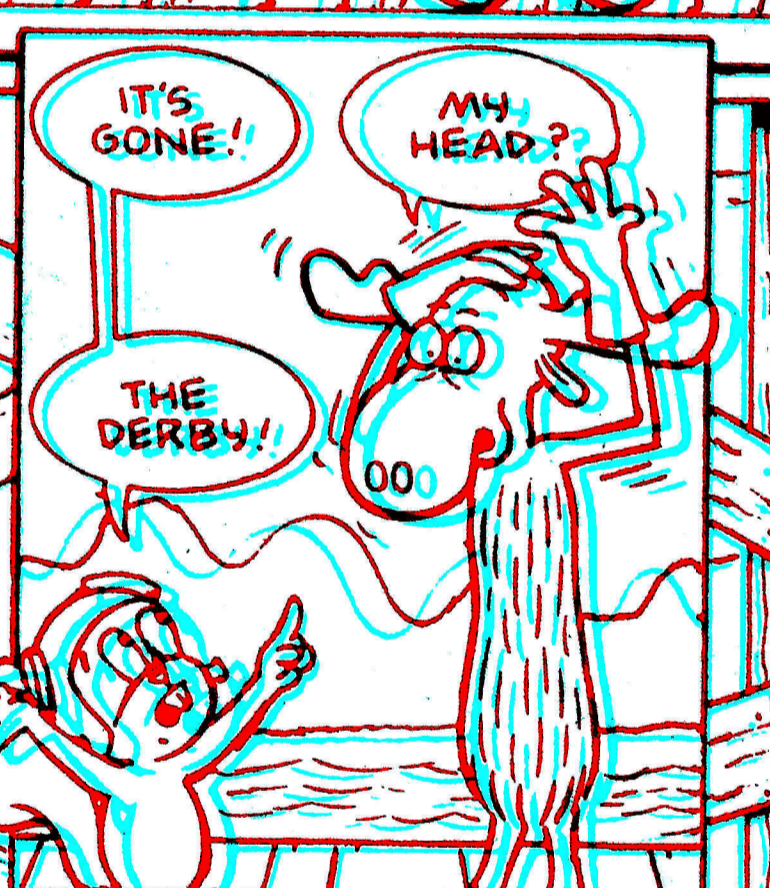
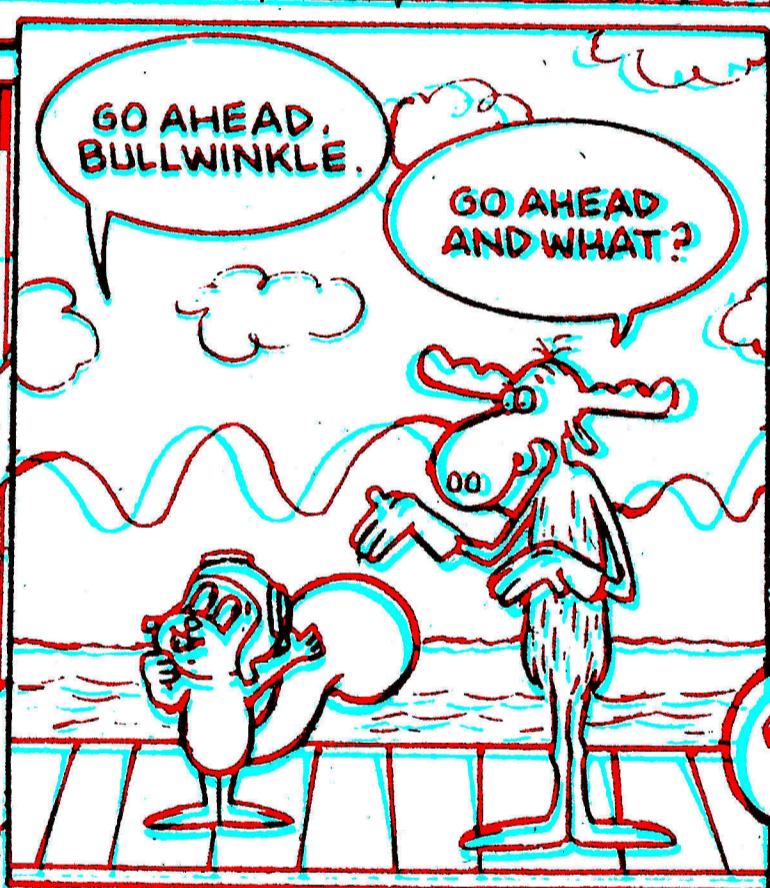
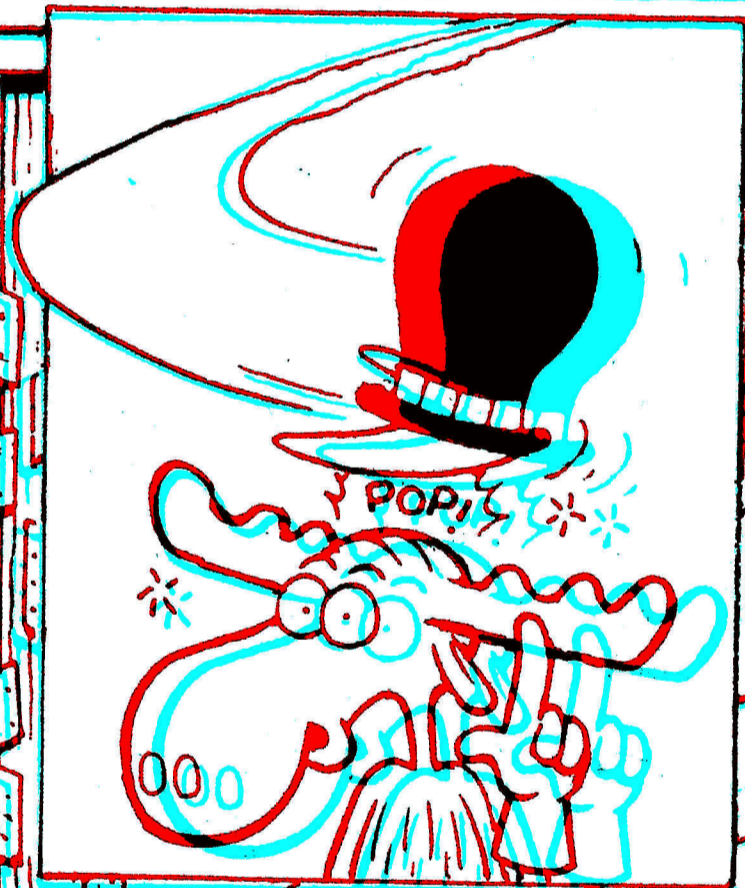
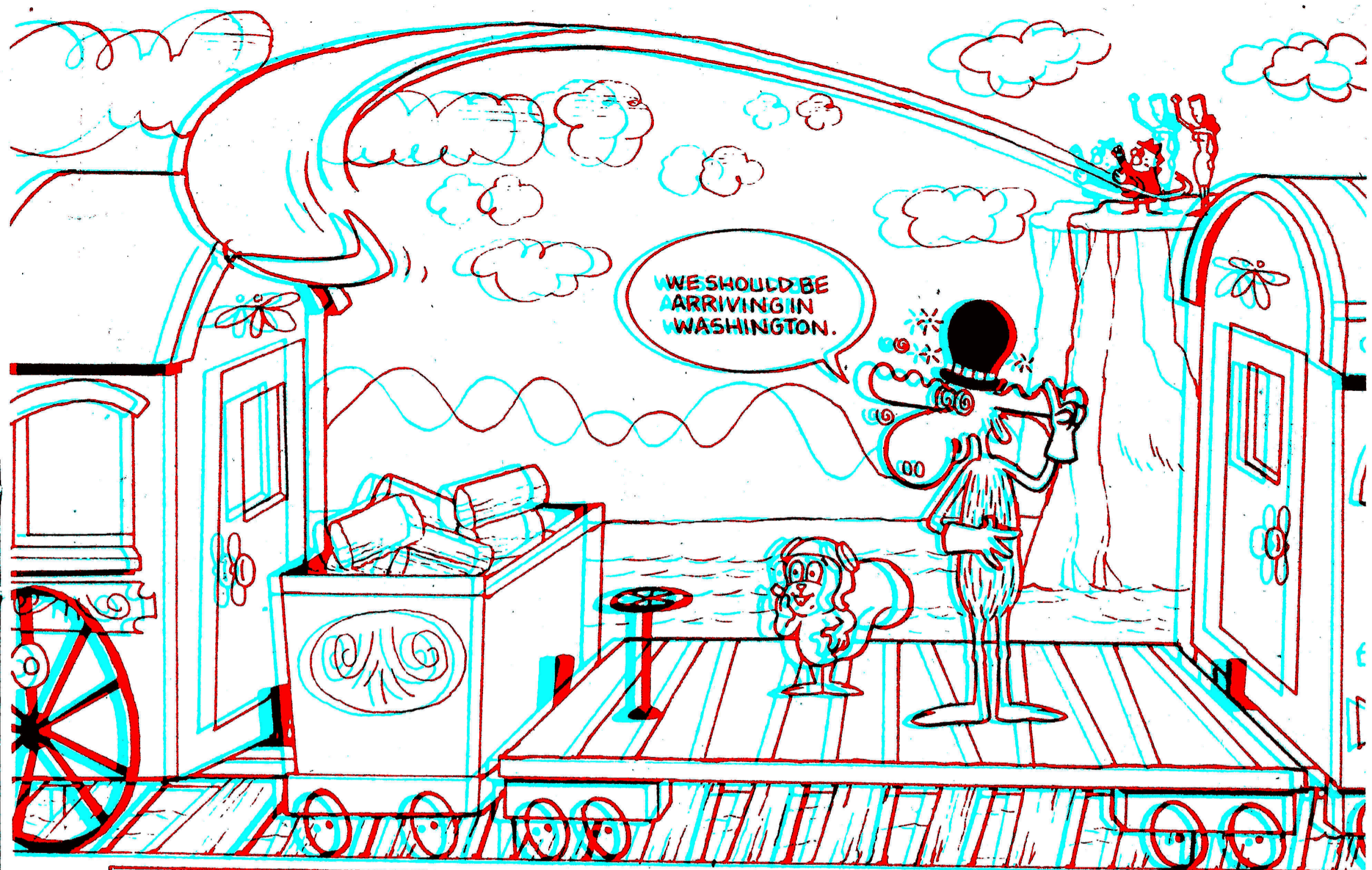


AND THEY DID BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, THEY WERE BEING WATCHED.

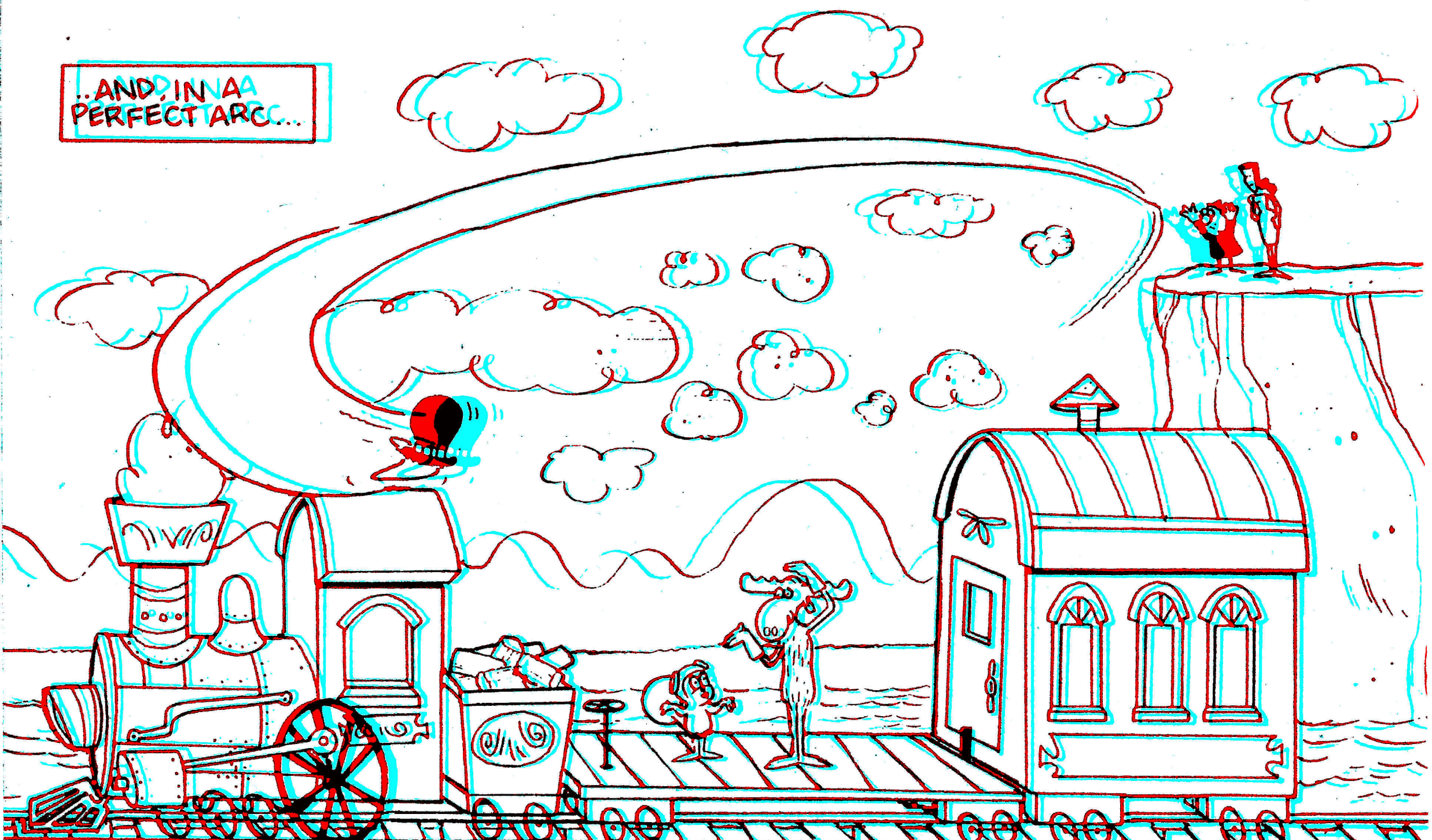
DOLLINK, THEY'RE GETTING AWAY.

DON'T WORRY, I GET HAT AT WITH THIS.





..AND IN A PERFECT ARC...



RETURNED THE DERBY TO BULLWINKLE'S HEAD.

PLOP!

AS I WAS SAYING WE SHOULD ARRIVE ABOUT 7 P.M.

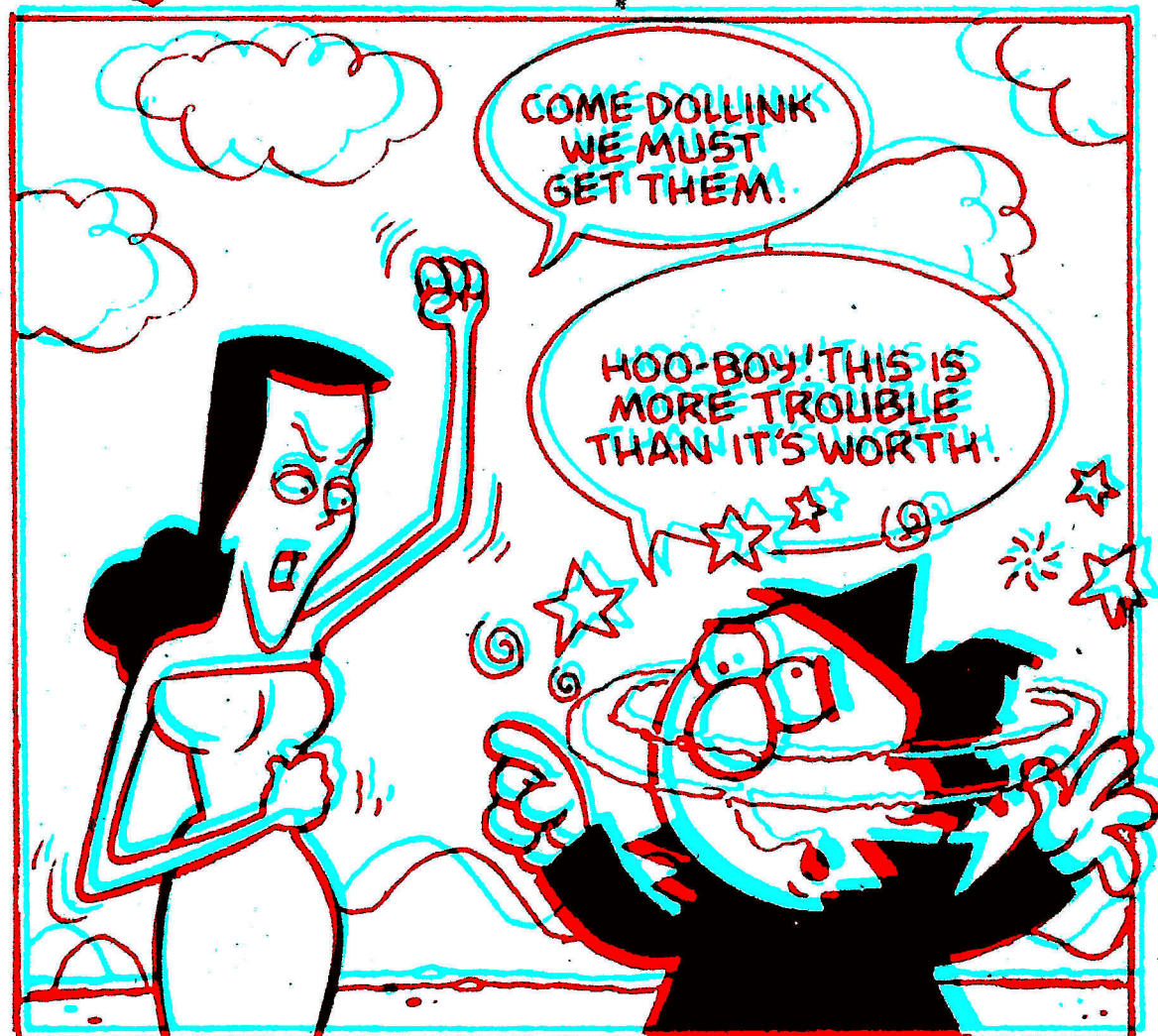
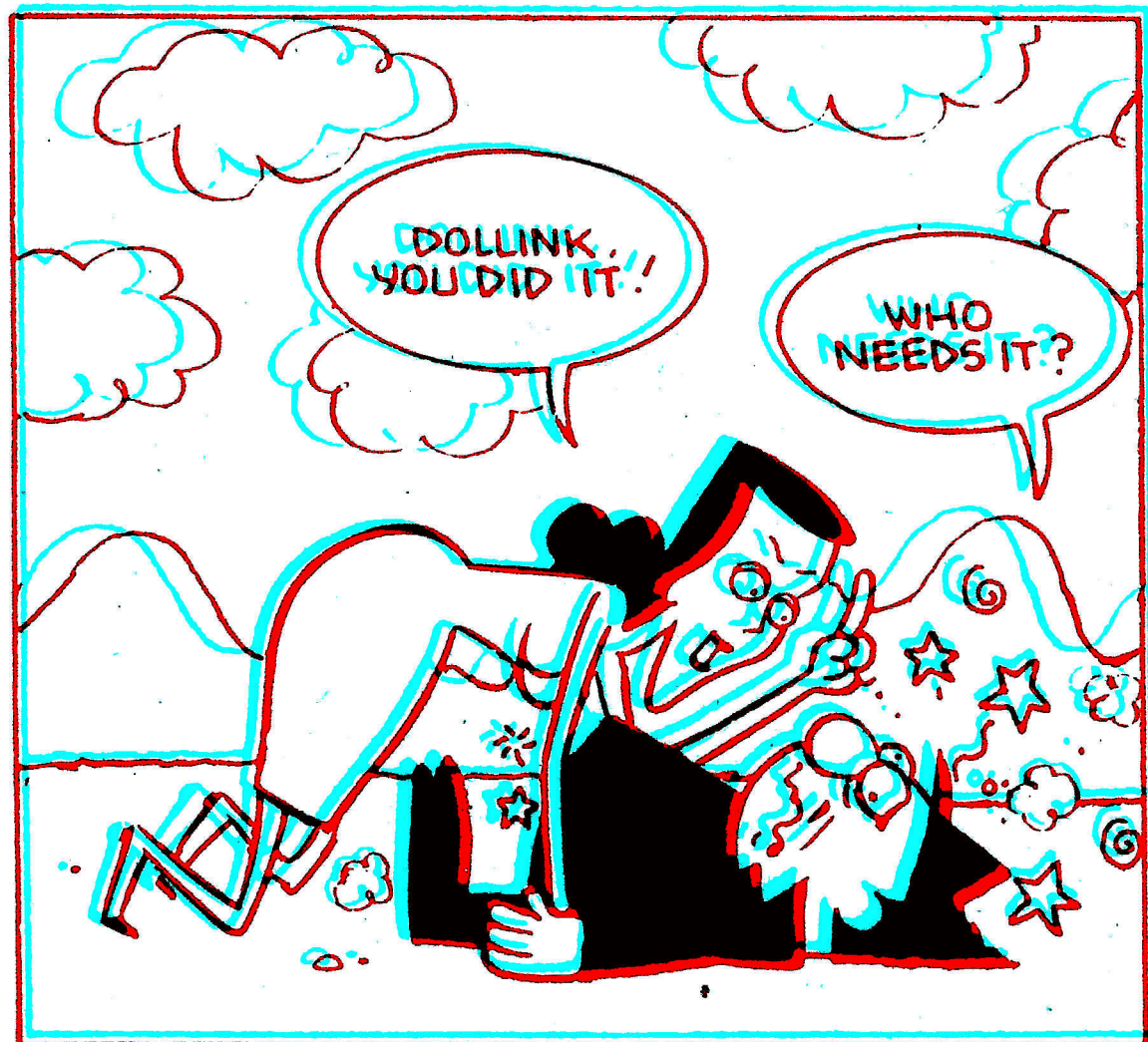
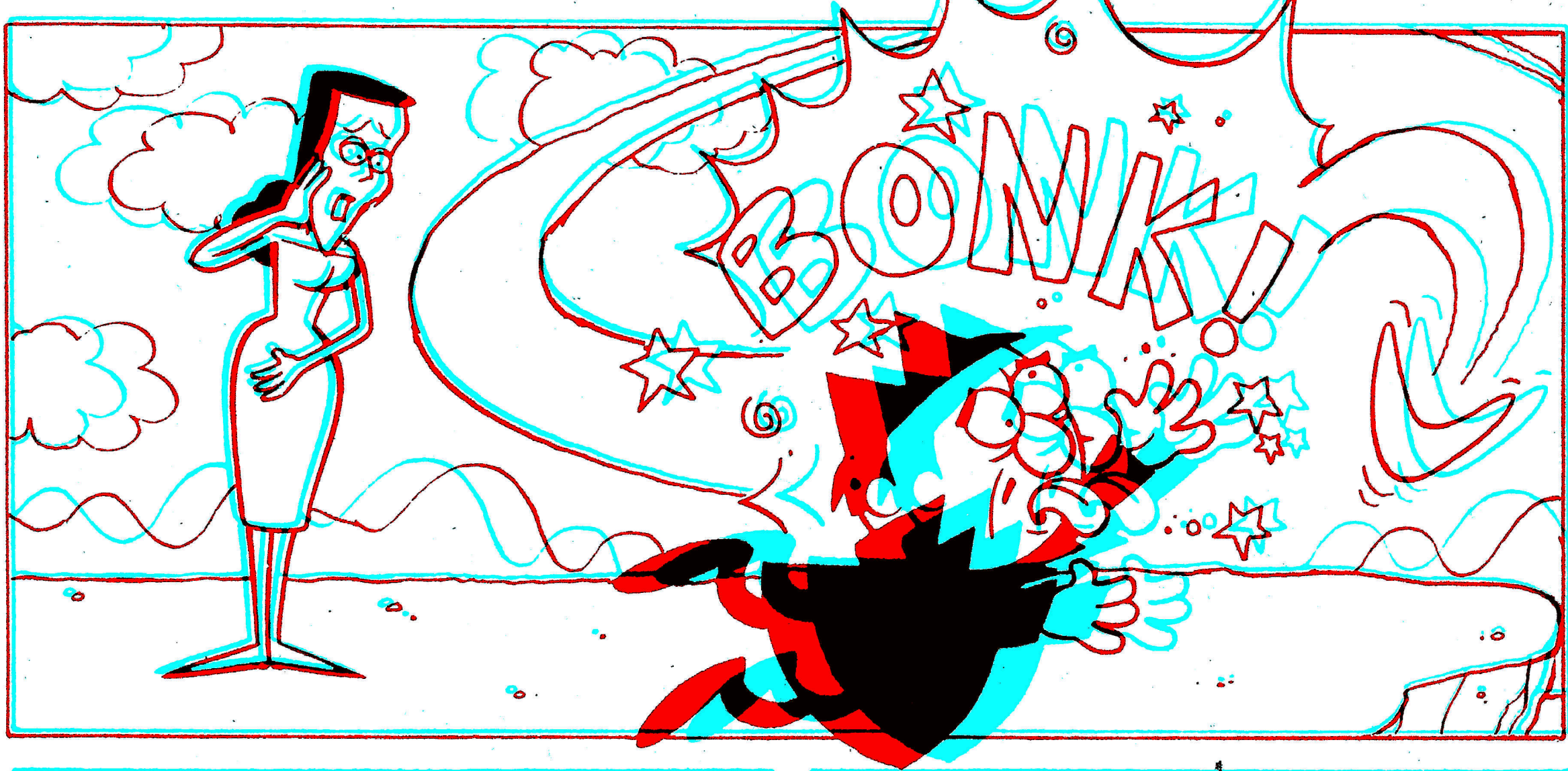
BULLWINKLE, THE HAT'S BACK!!

GOLLY, THERE'S STEAM COMING OUT FROM YOUR HEAD. YOU BETTER TAKE IT OFF!!

MY HEAD??

BULLWINKLE!!

GUESS I'M NOT USED TO THINKING.



BADENOV,
YOU FOOL!

WHA...? WHAT??

WHO? WHAT??

HUH

WHERE?

PUTT

PUTT

OUR VILLAINS HAD
FORGOTTEN THEY WERE
STILL BEING WATCHED
BY THEIR COMMANDER,
FEARLESS LEADER.

UP THERE,
DOLLINK

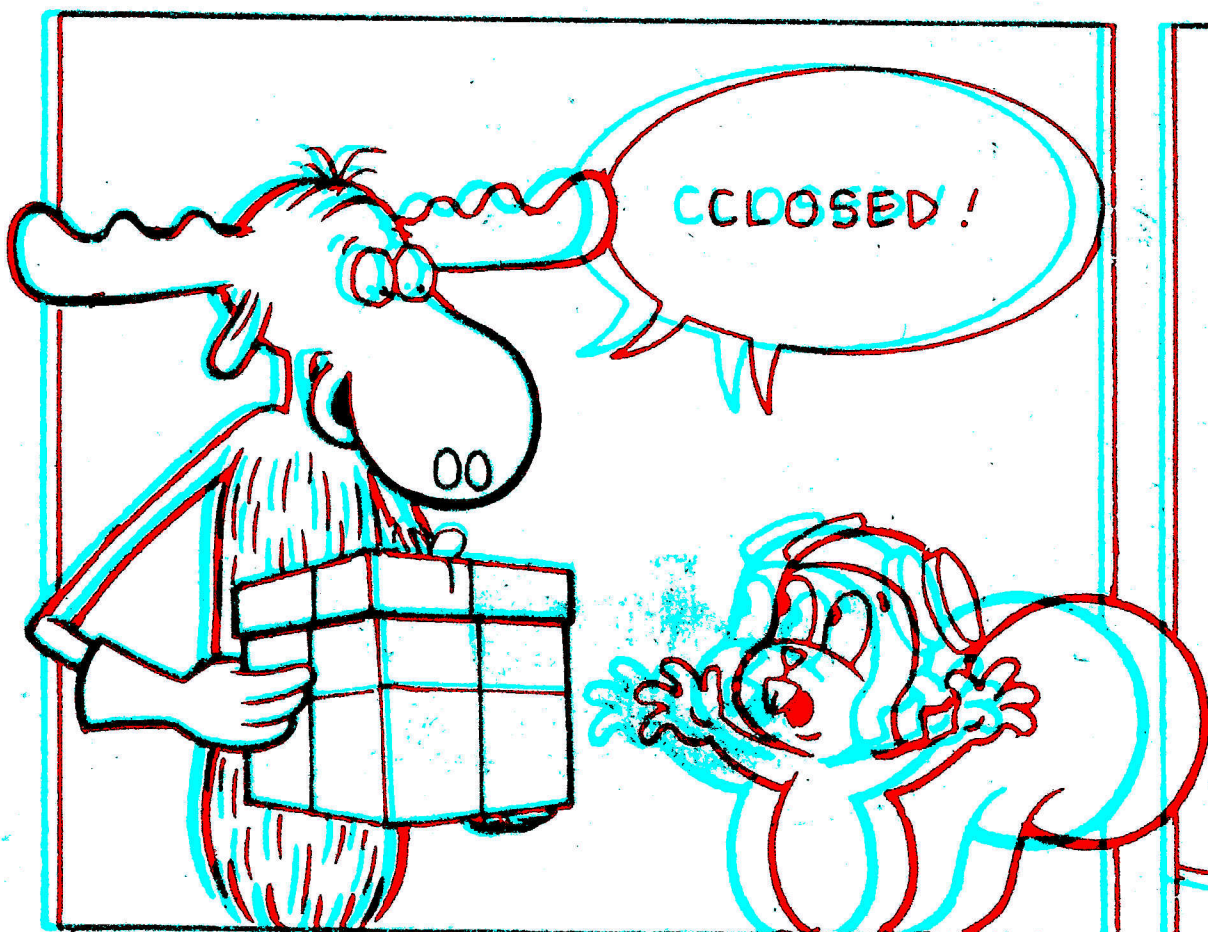
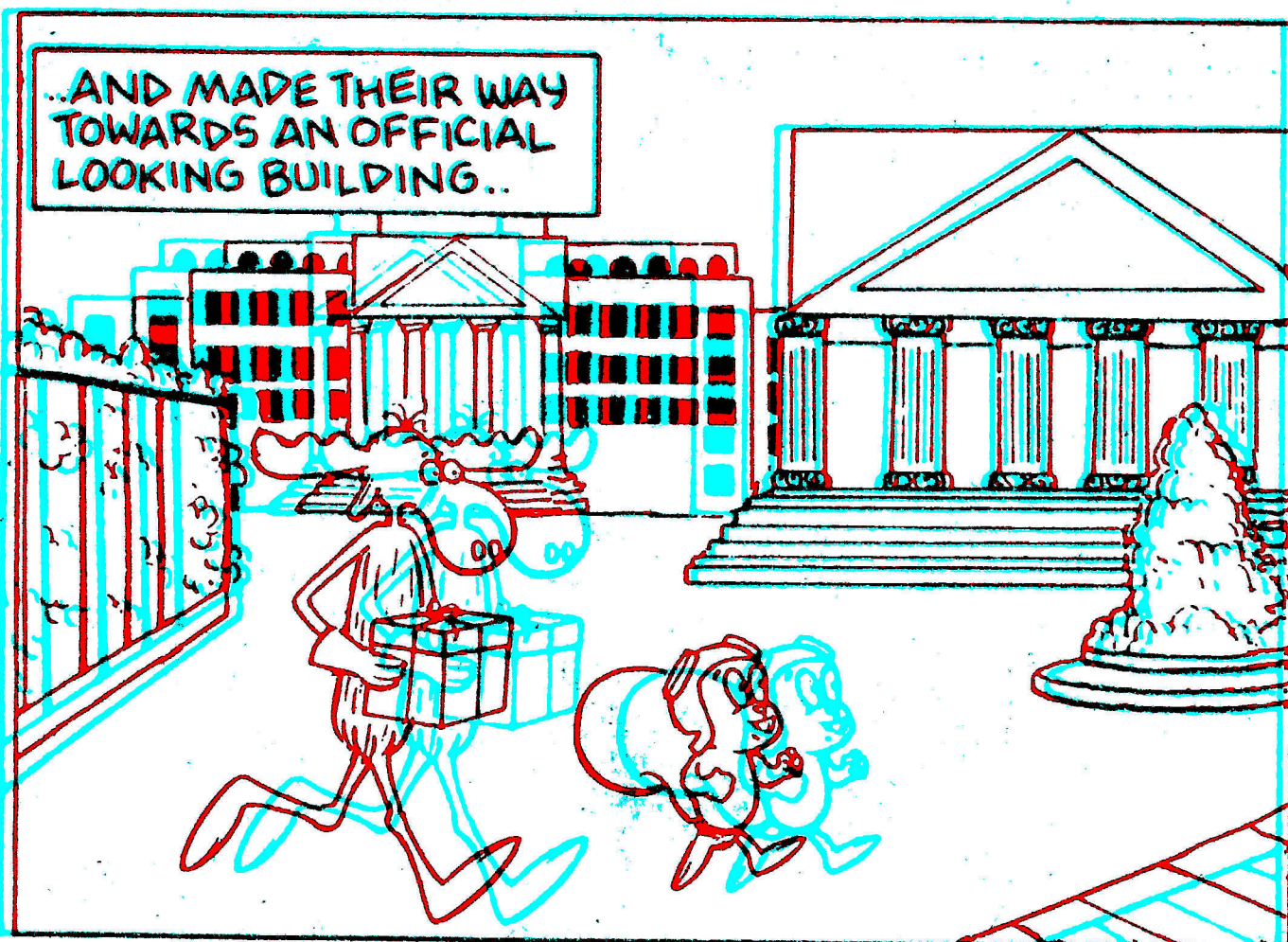
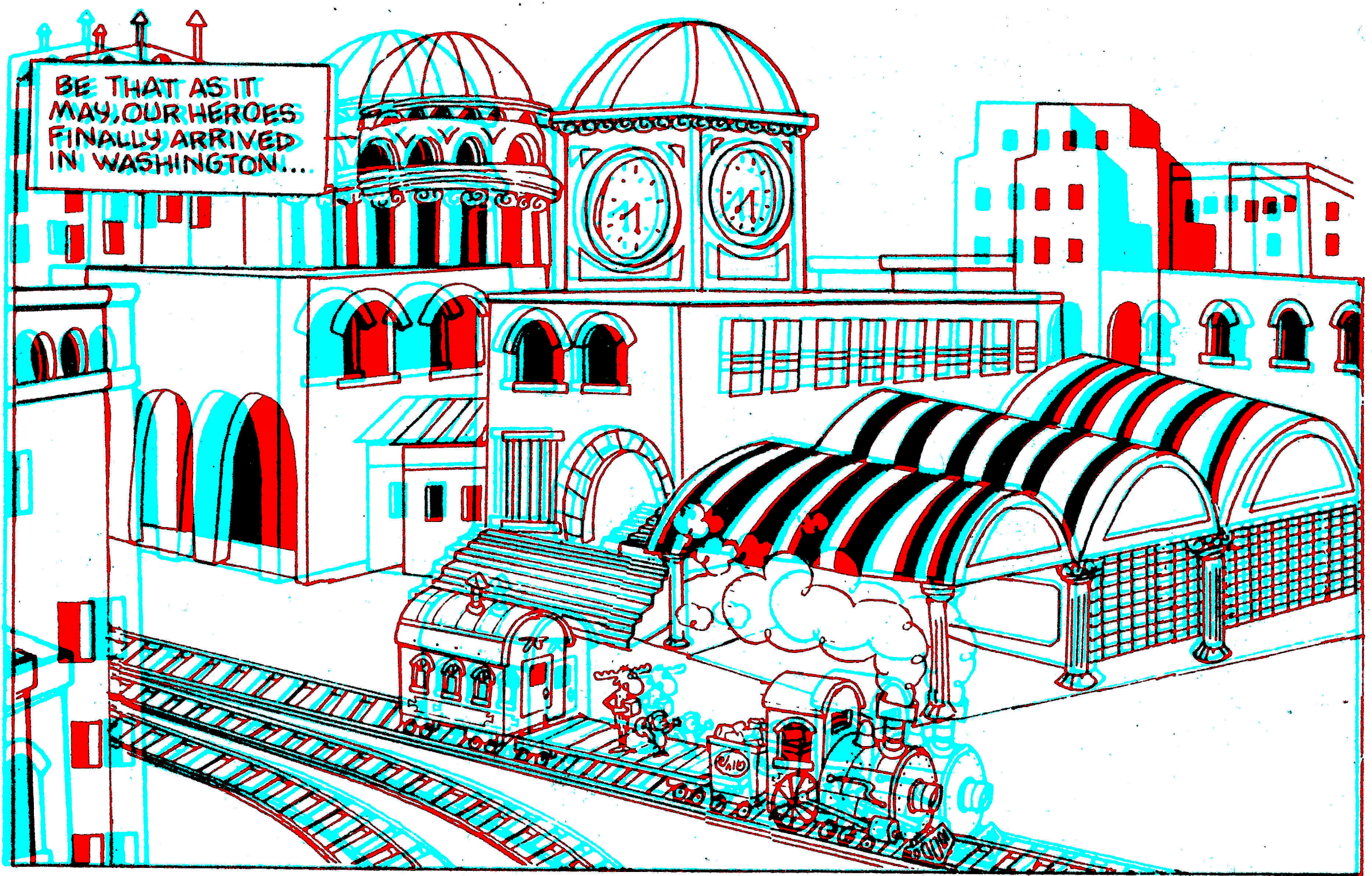
DON'T LET THEM
GET AWAY YOU IDIOTS!
AFTER THEM!

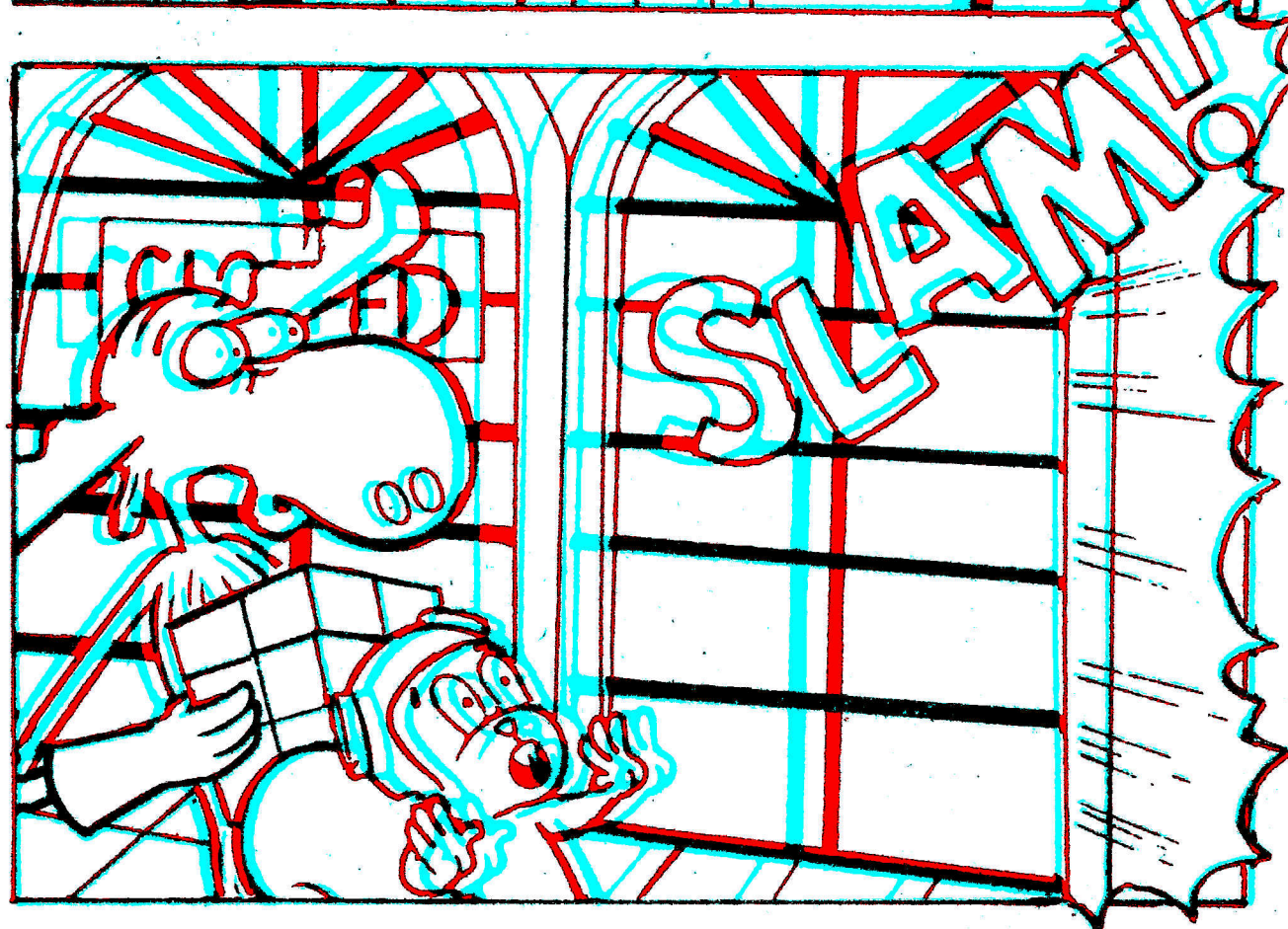
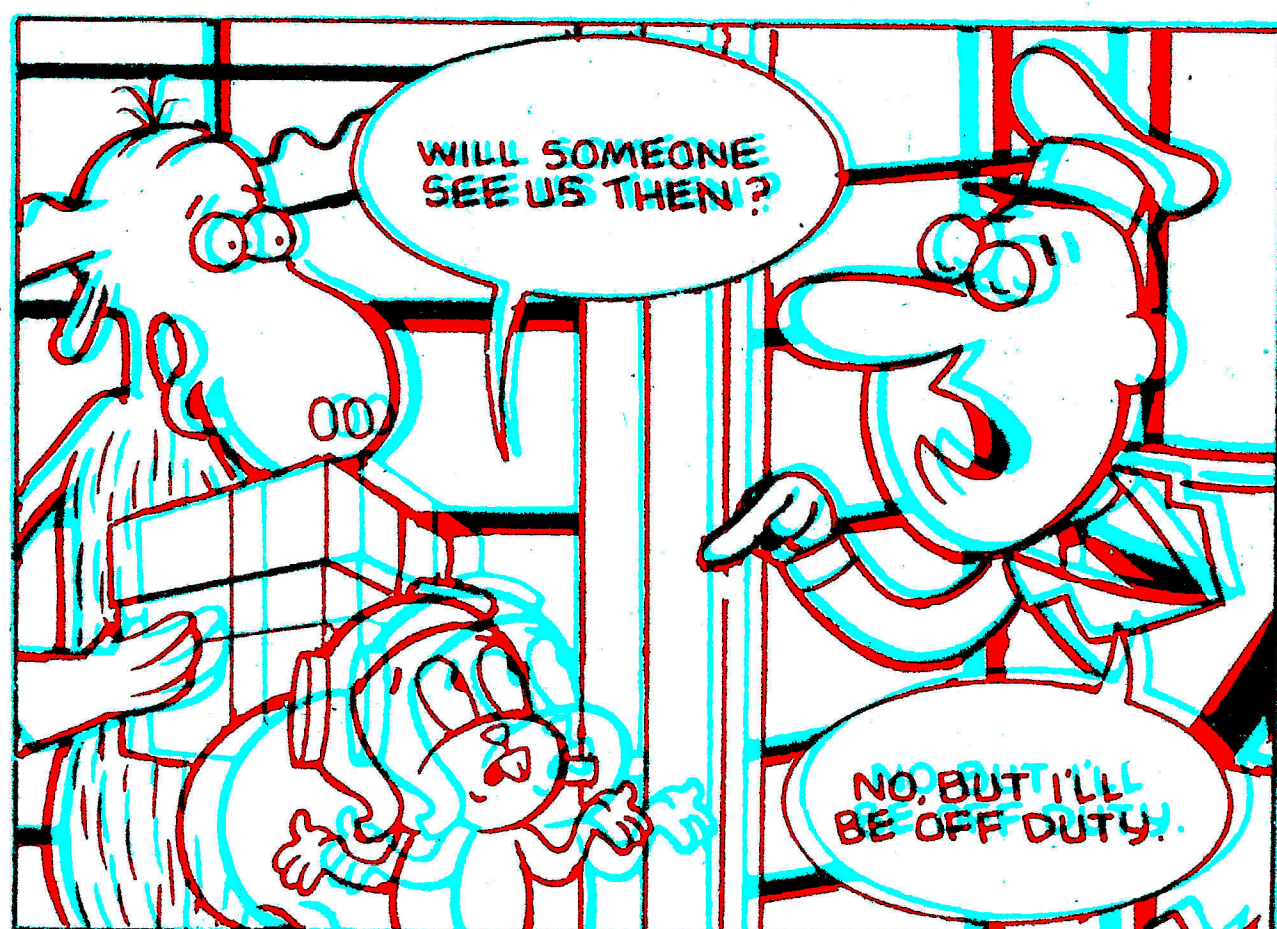
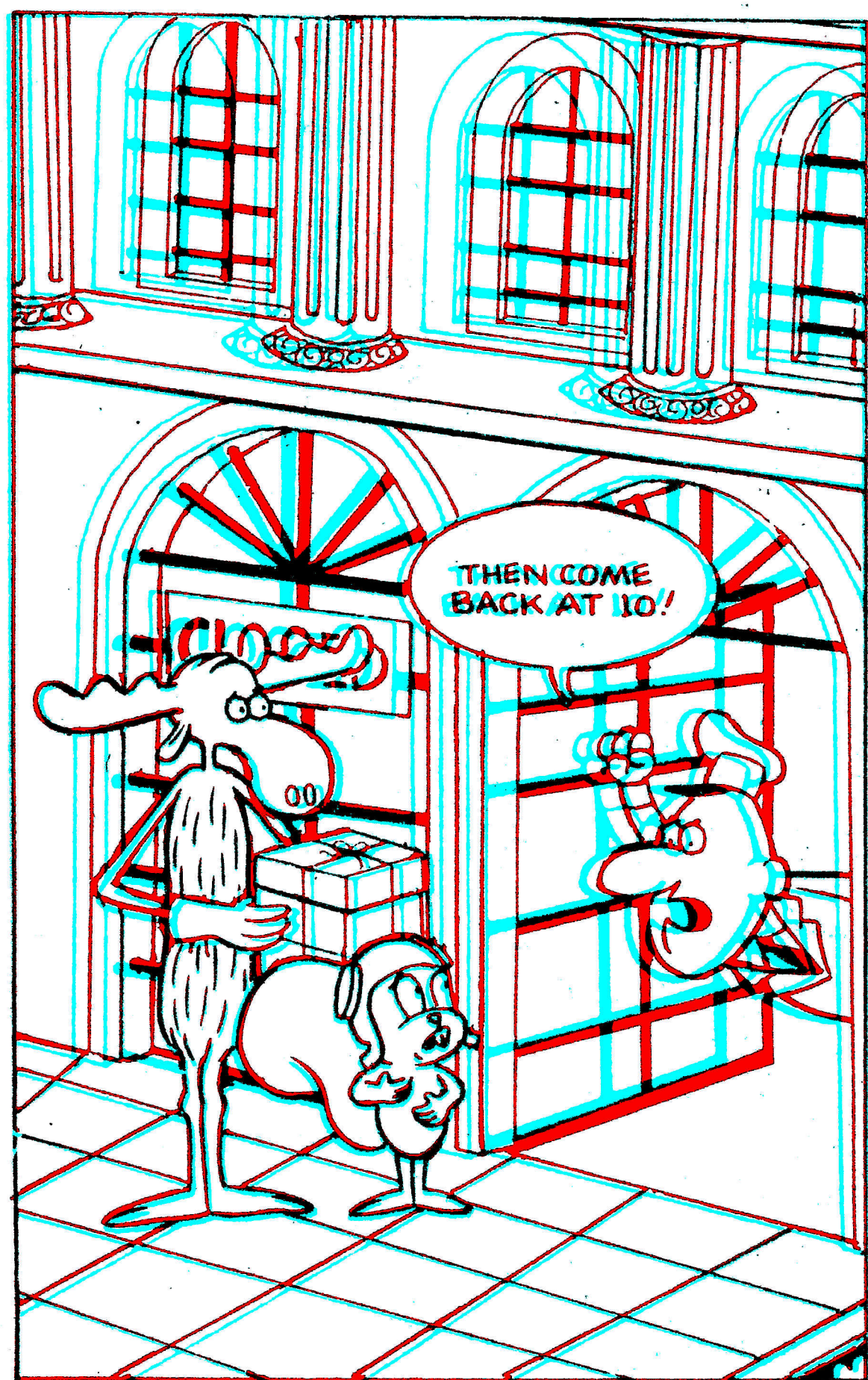
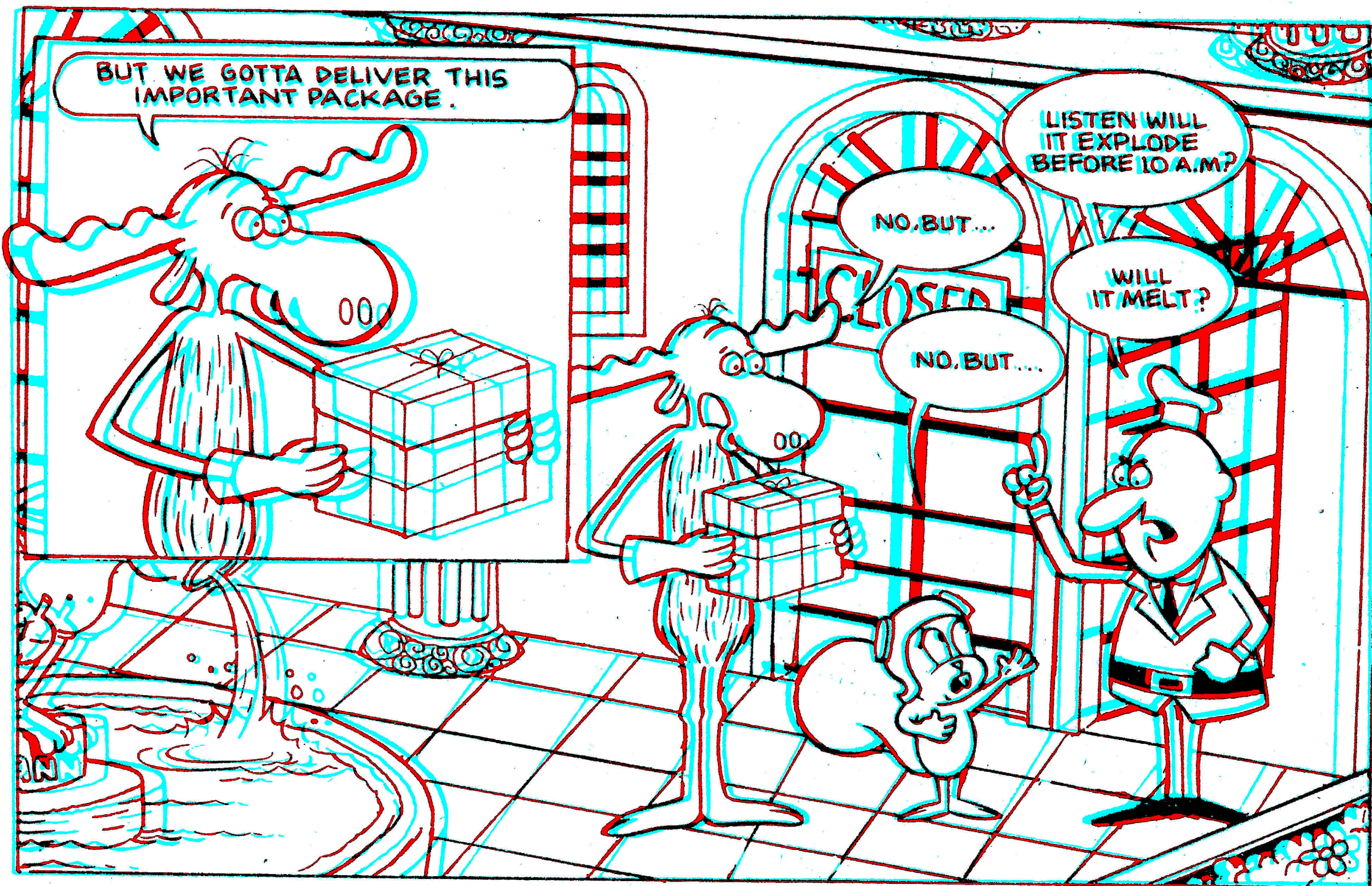
WHOOPSIE!

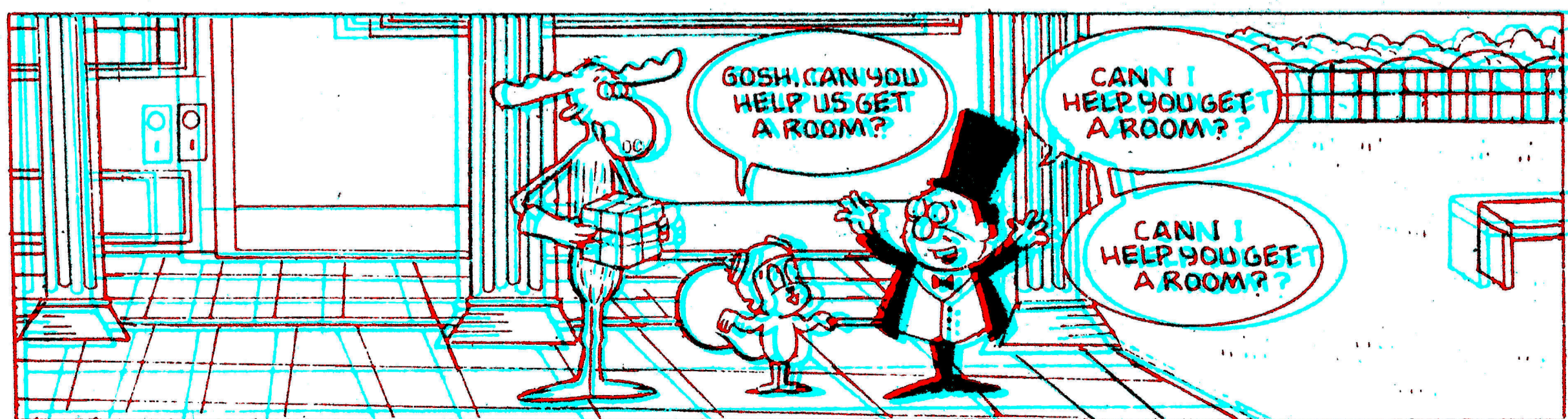
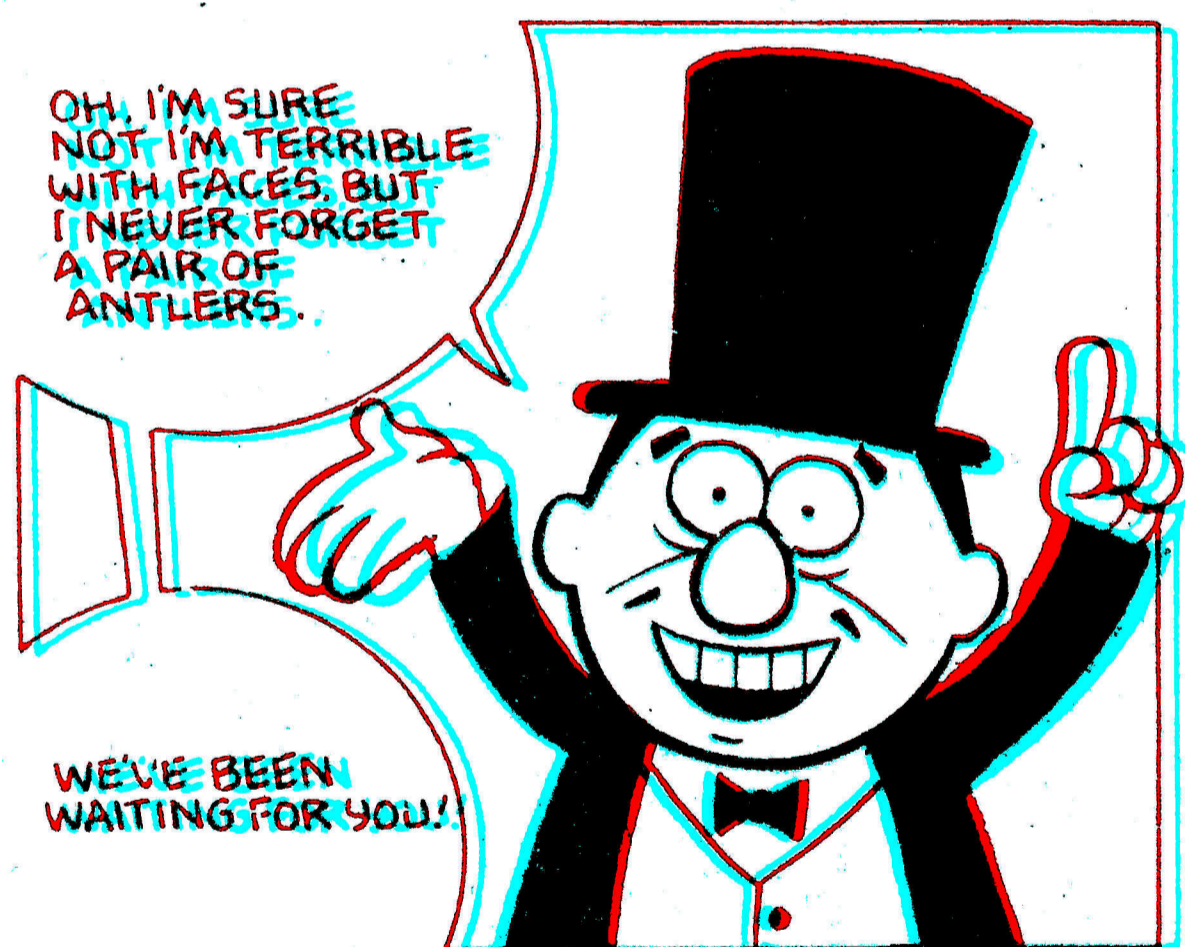
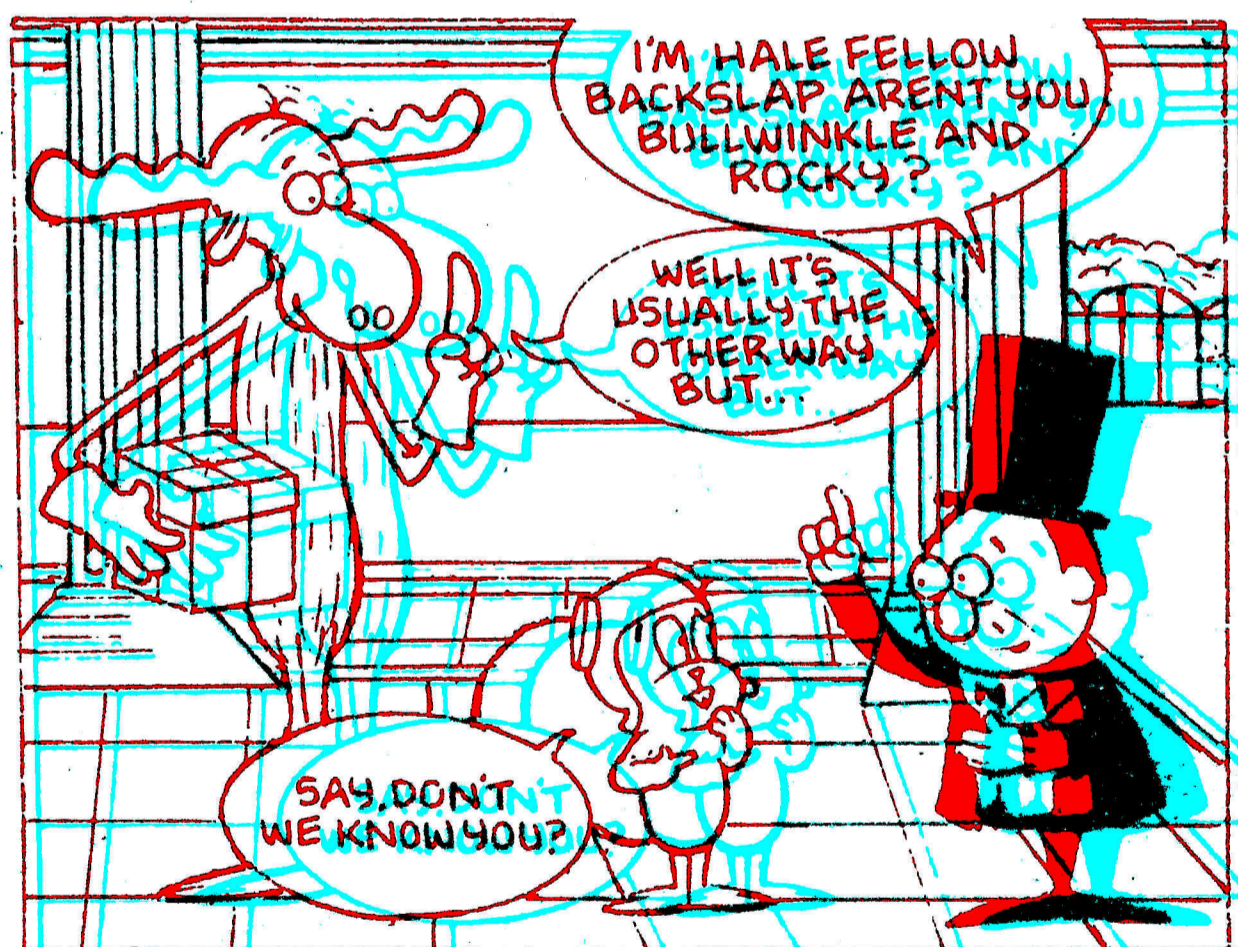
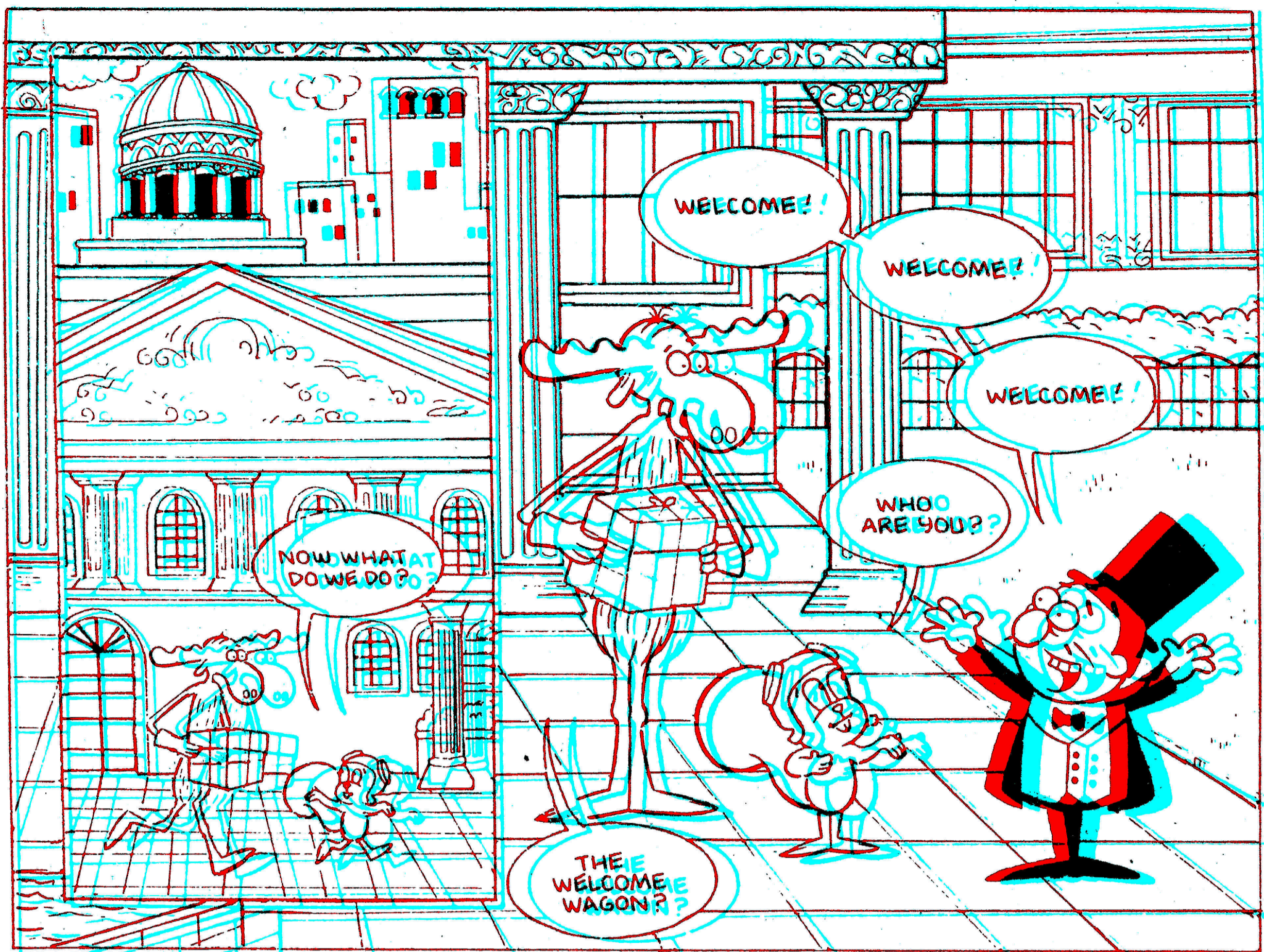
ONE DAY
NATASHA I'M
GOING TO...

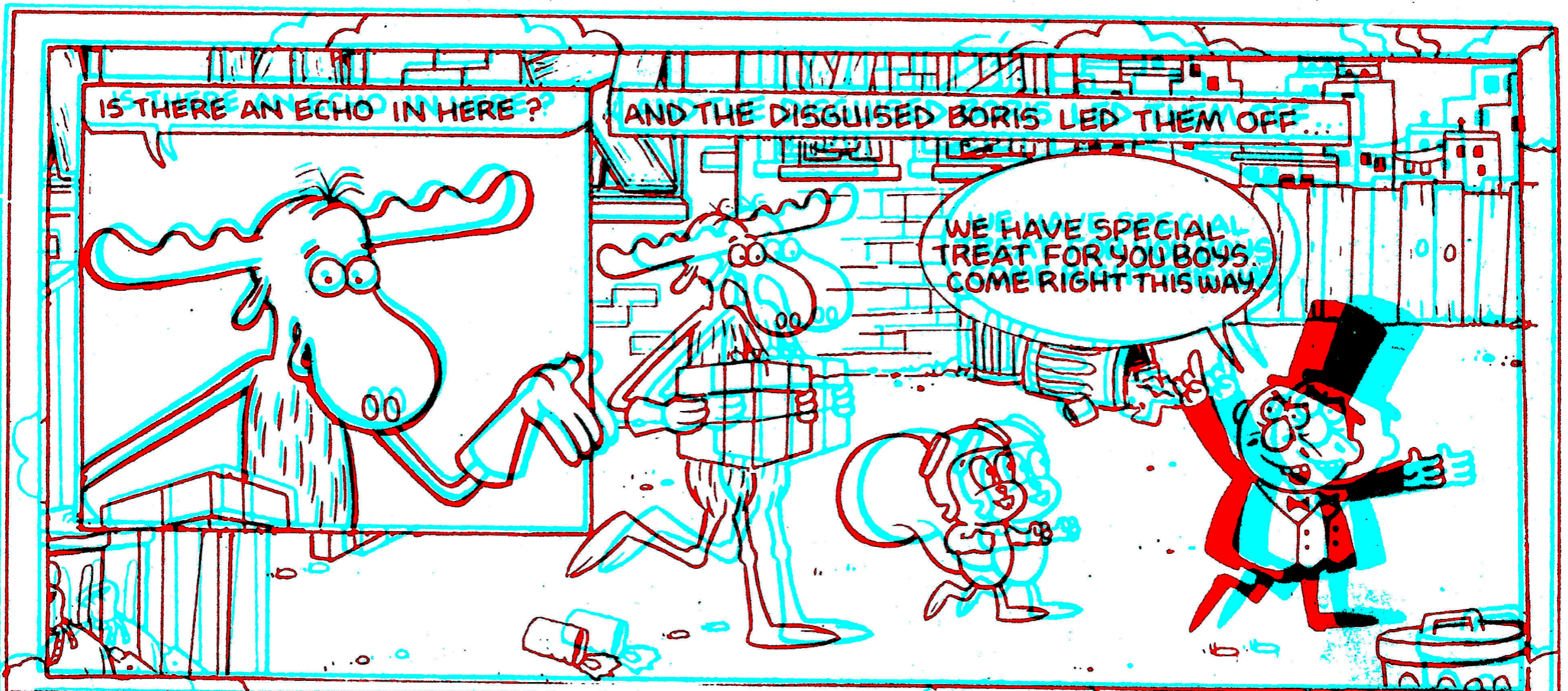
WHAT WAS
THAT, BADENOV?

NOTHING, BOSS-
MAN. SWEETIE, LAMBIE
PIE. WE'LL GET MOOSE
AND SQUIRREL
JUST WATCH!

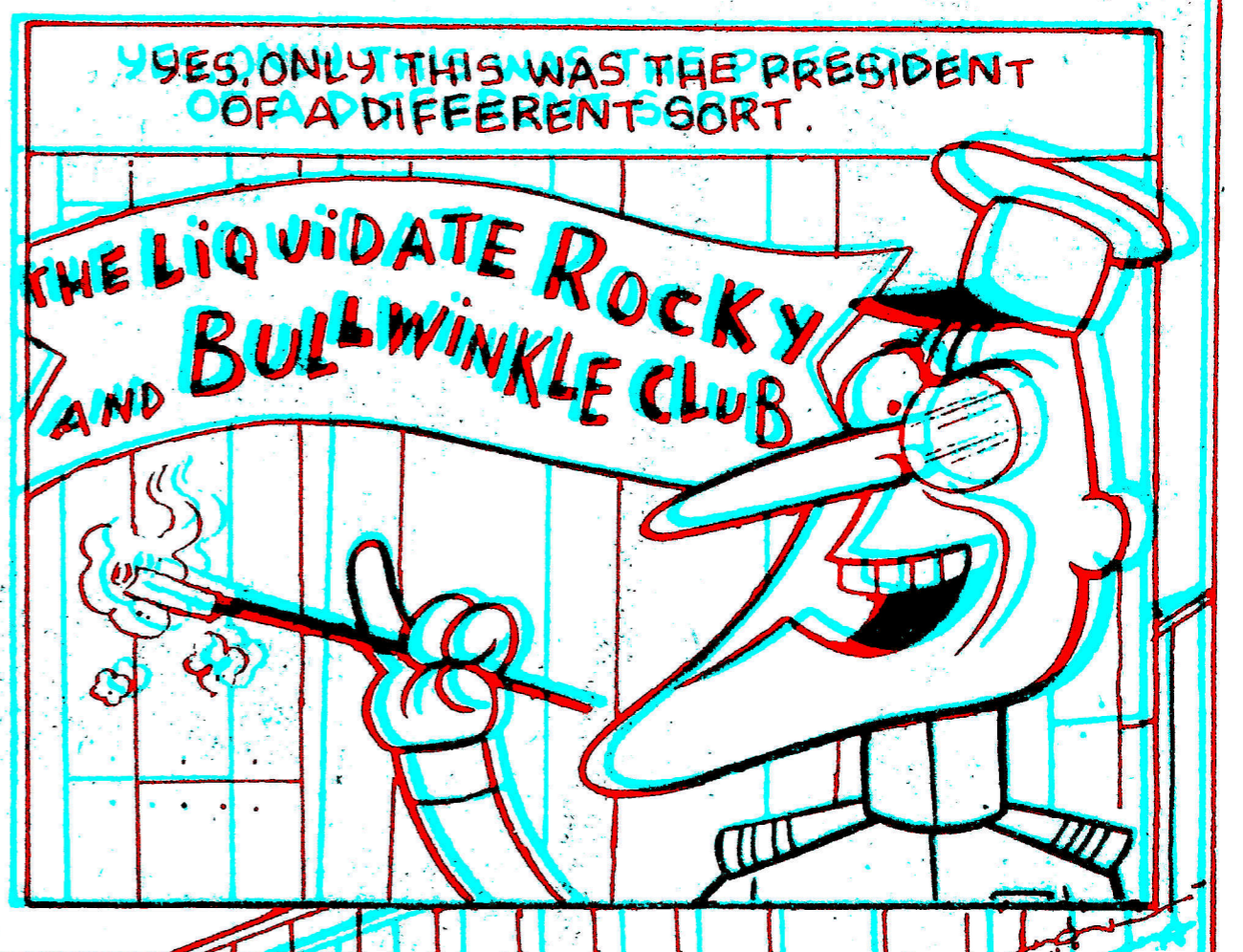
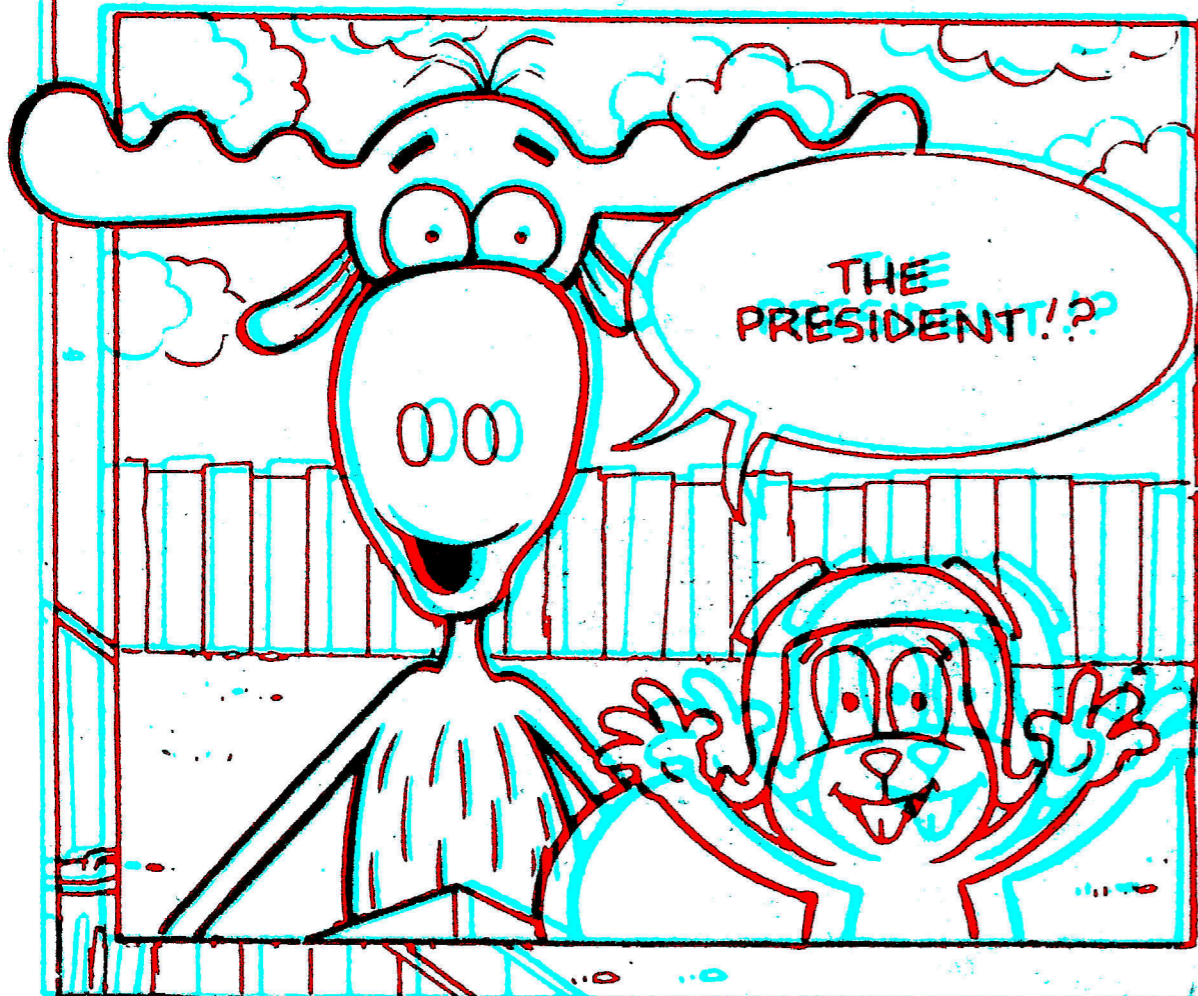
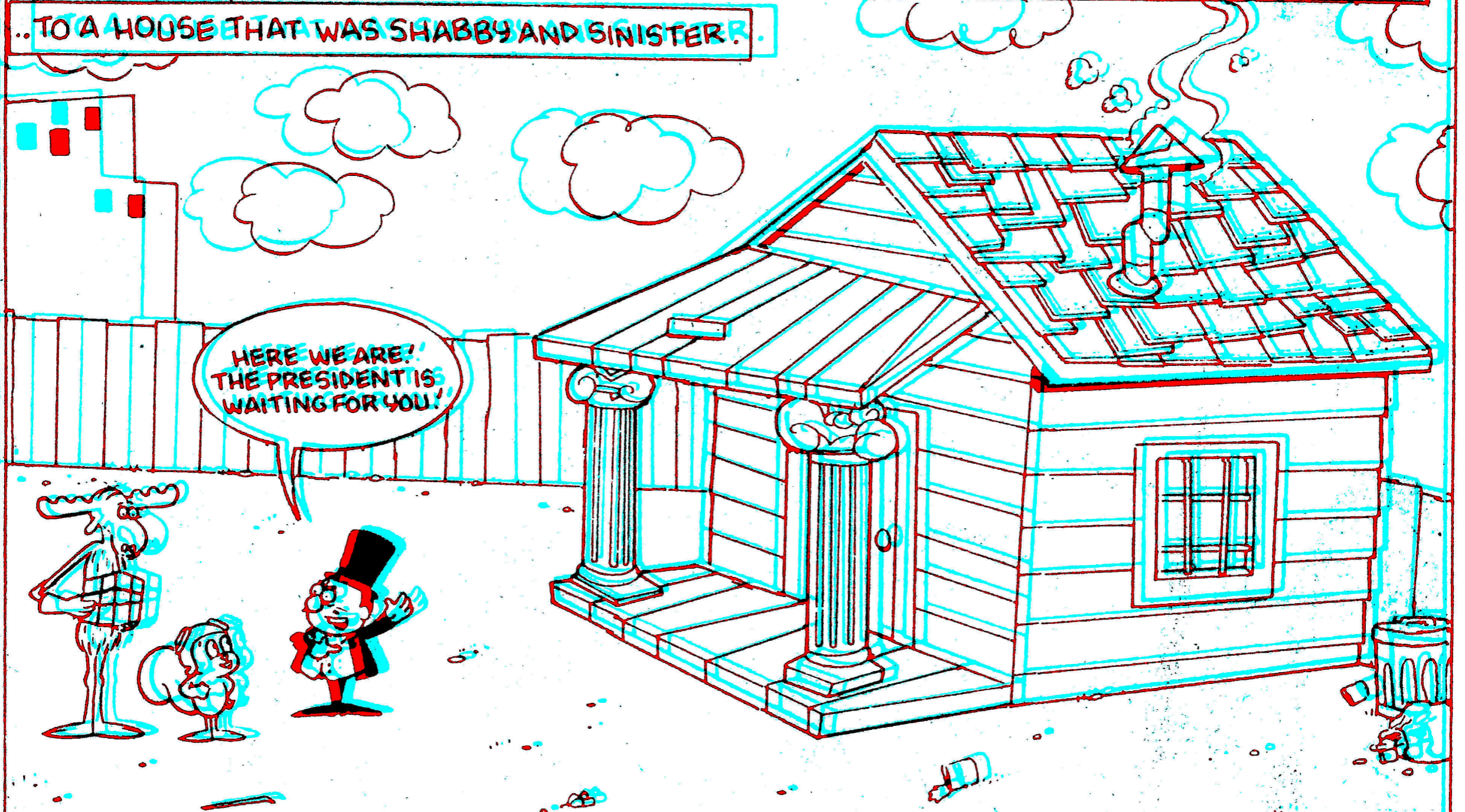


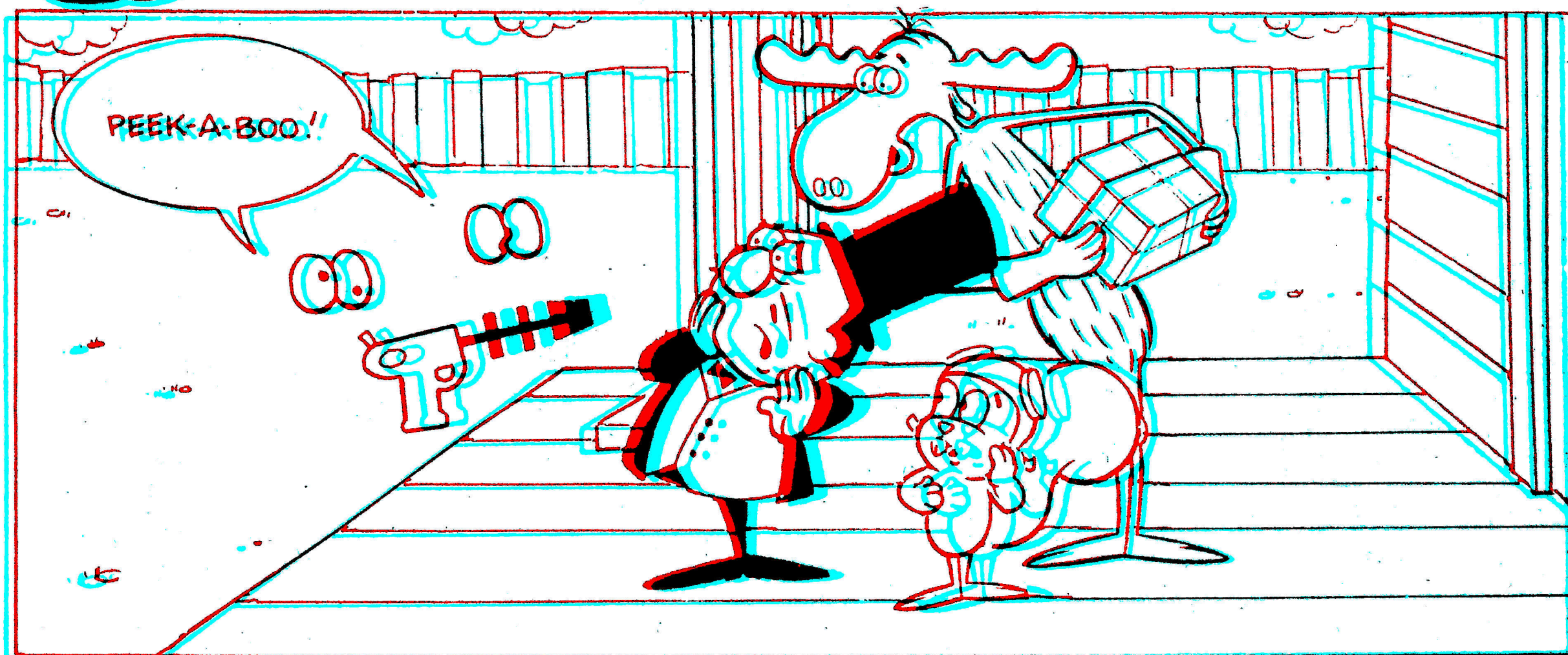
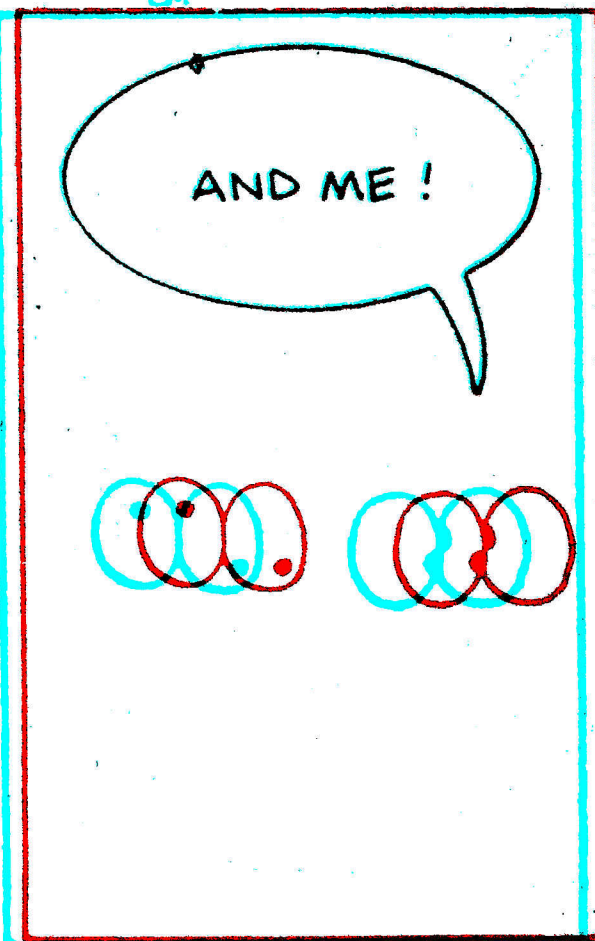
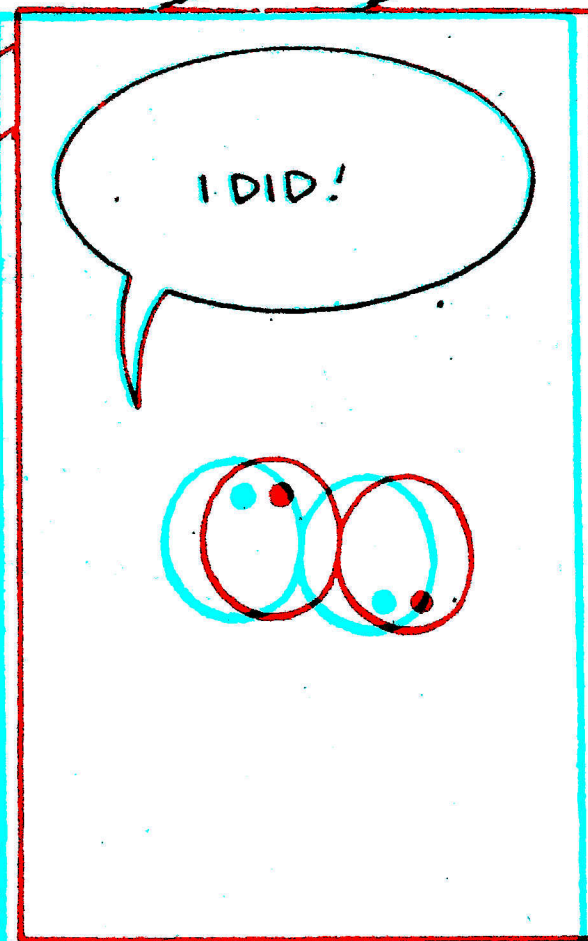
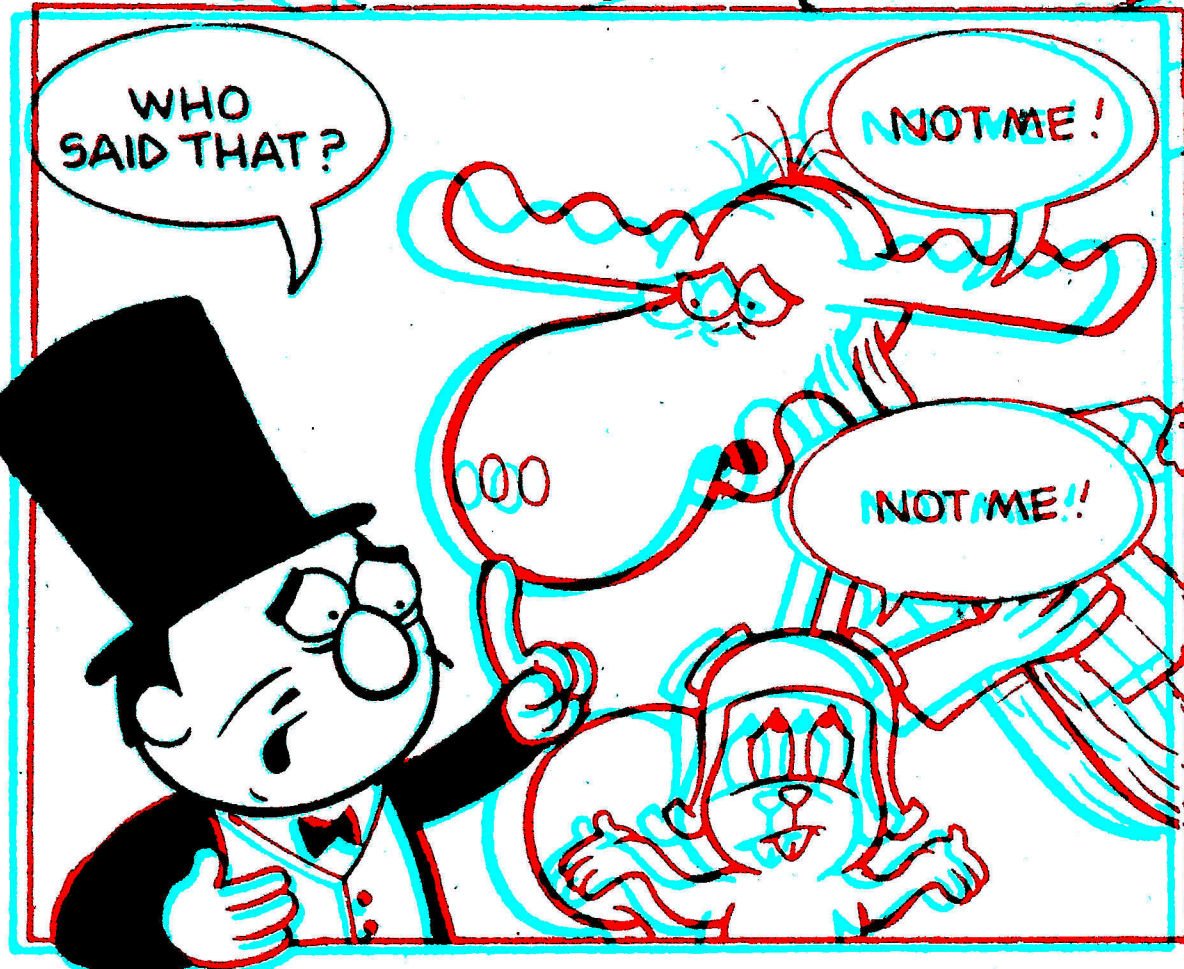


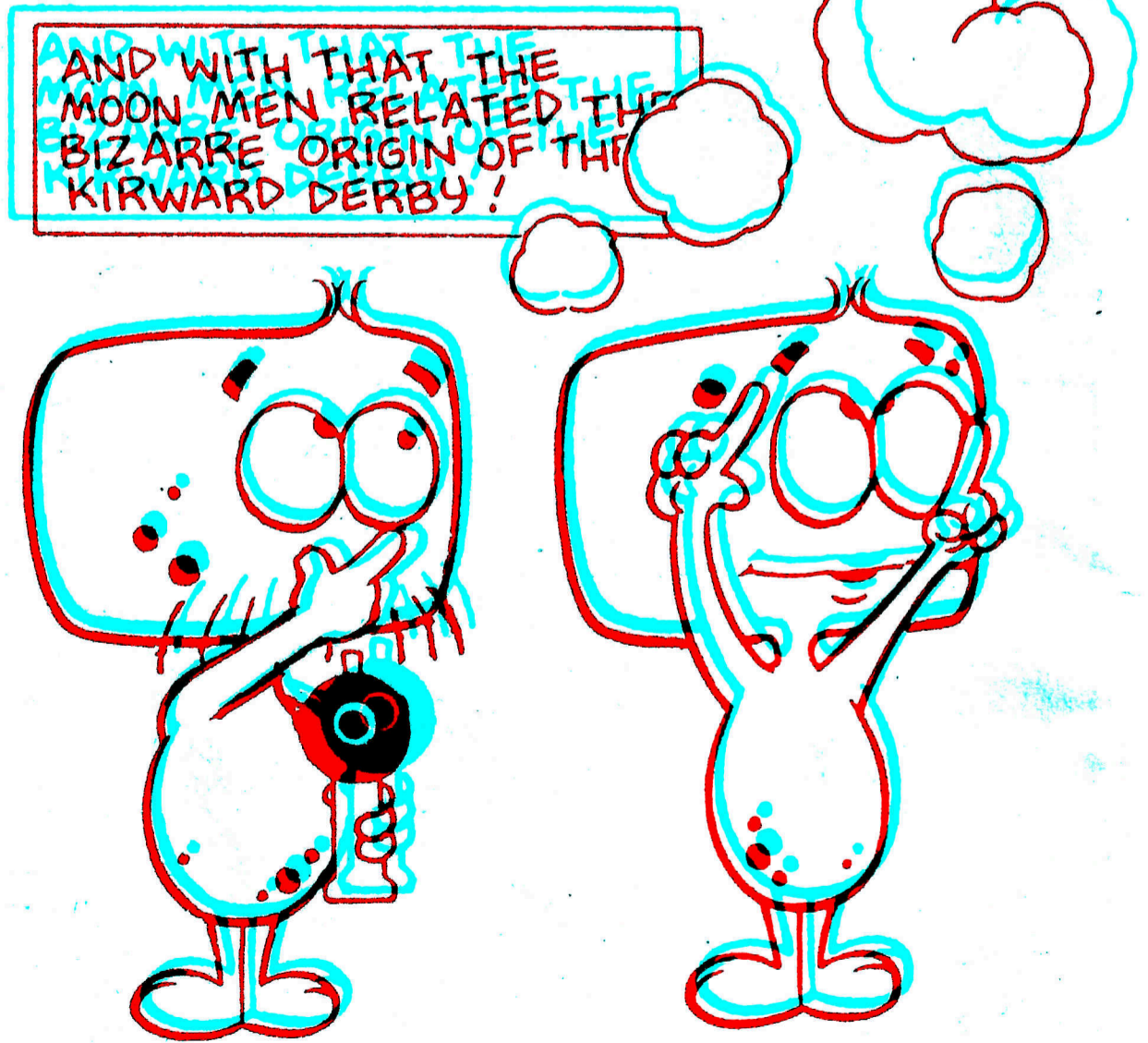
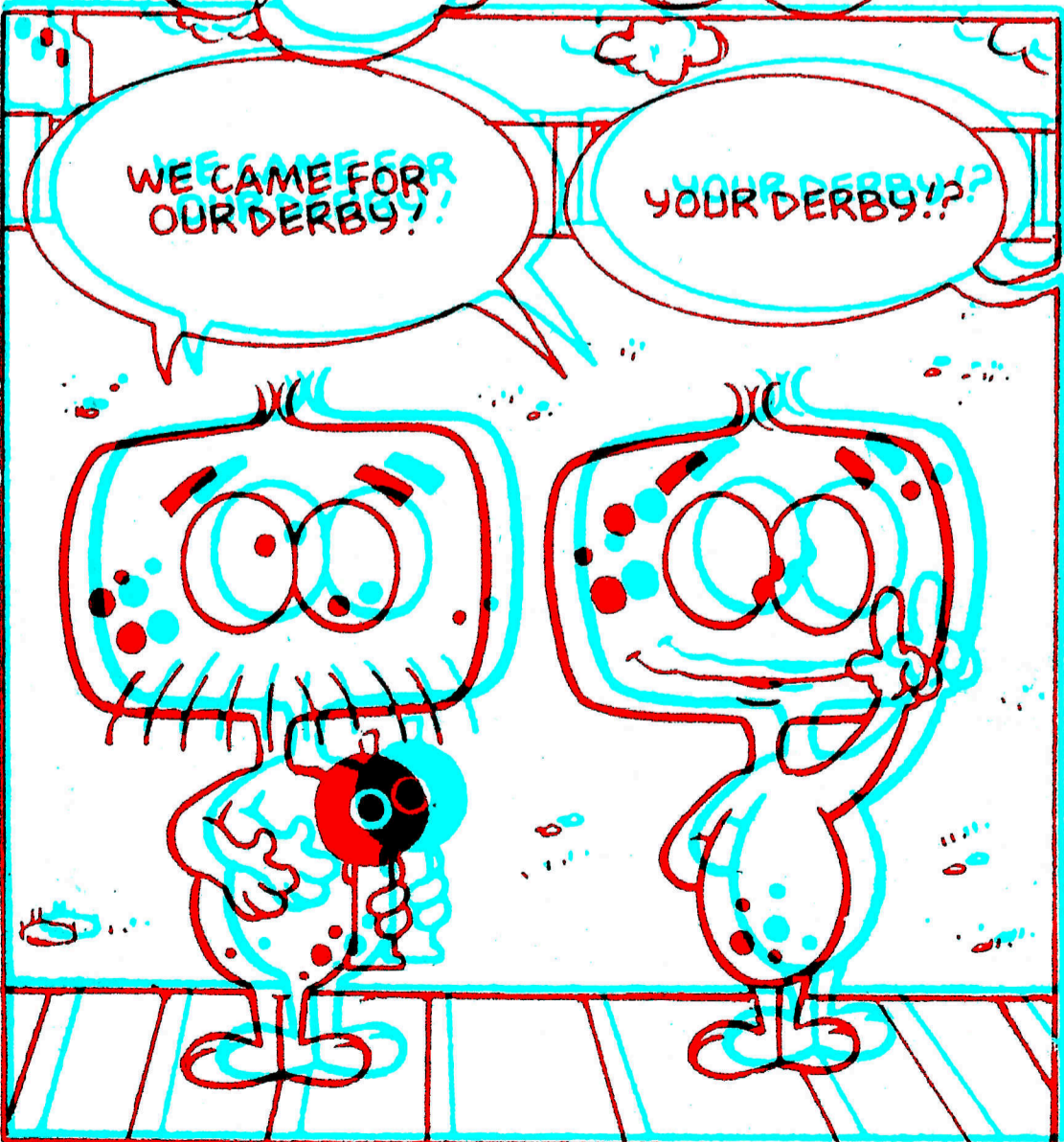
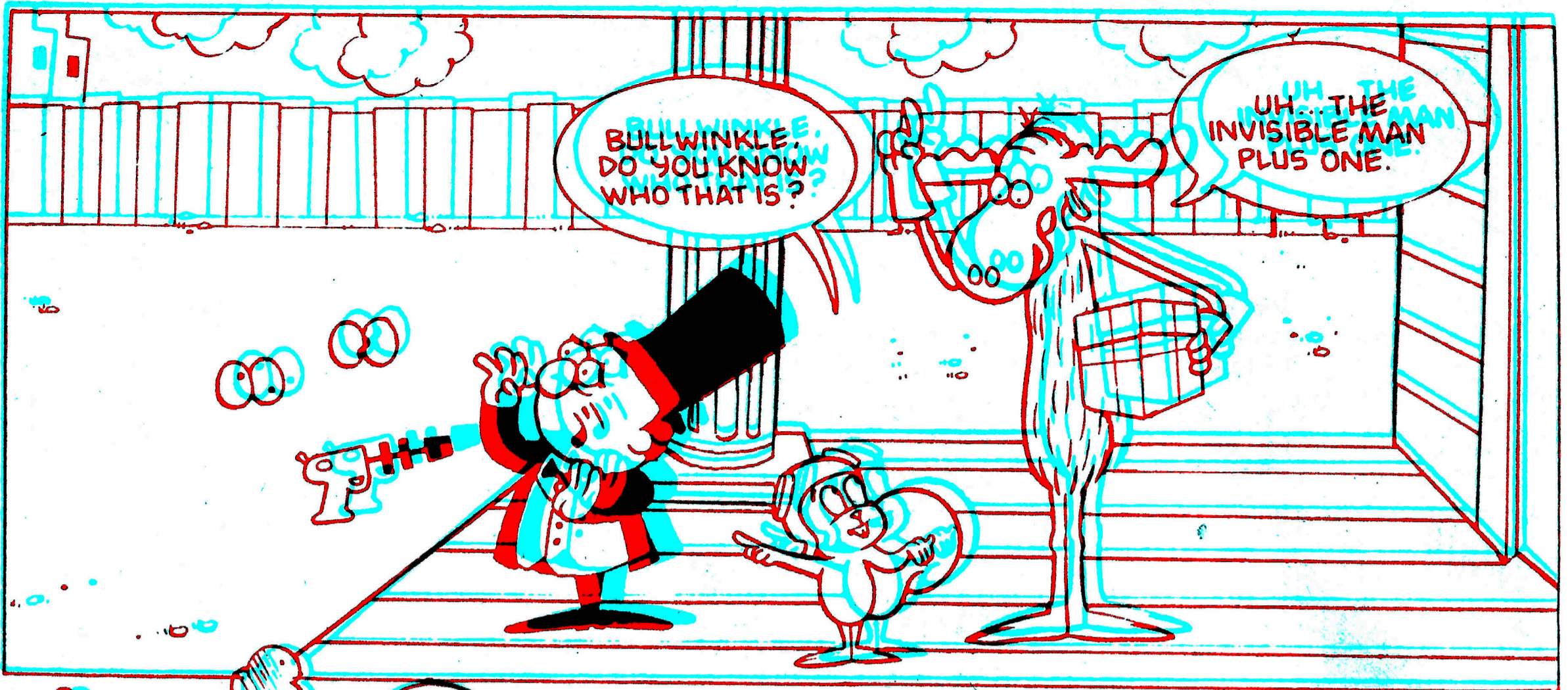




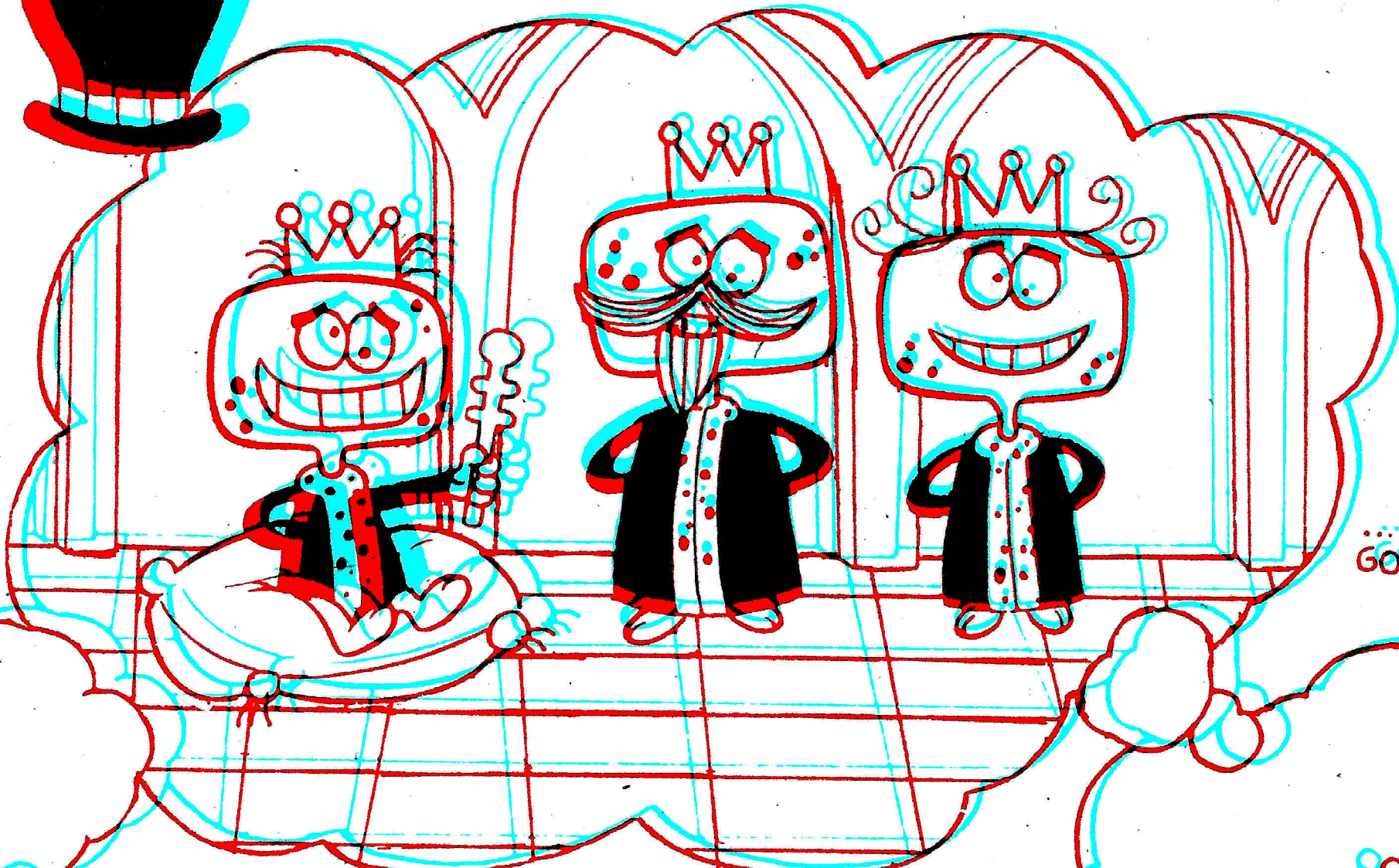
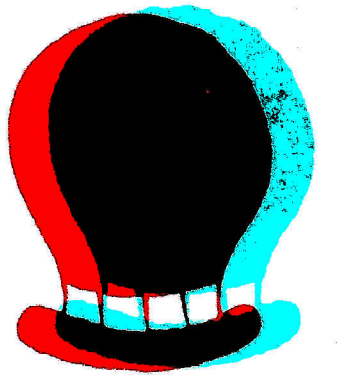
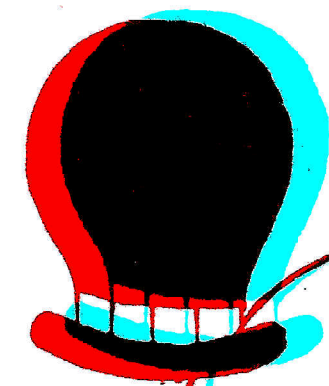
..TO A HOUSE THAT WAS SHABBY AND SINISTER.





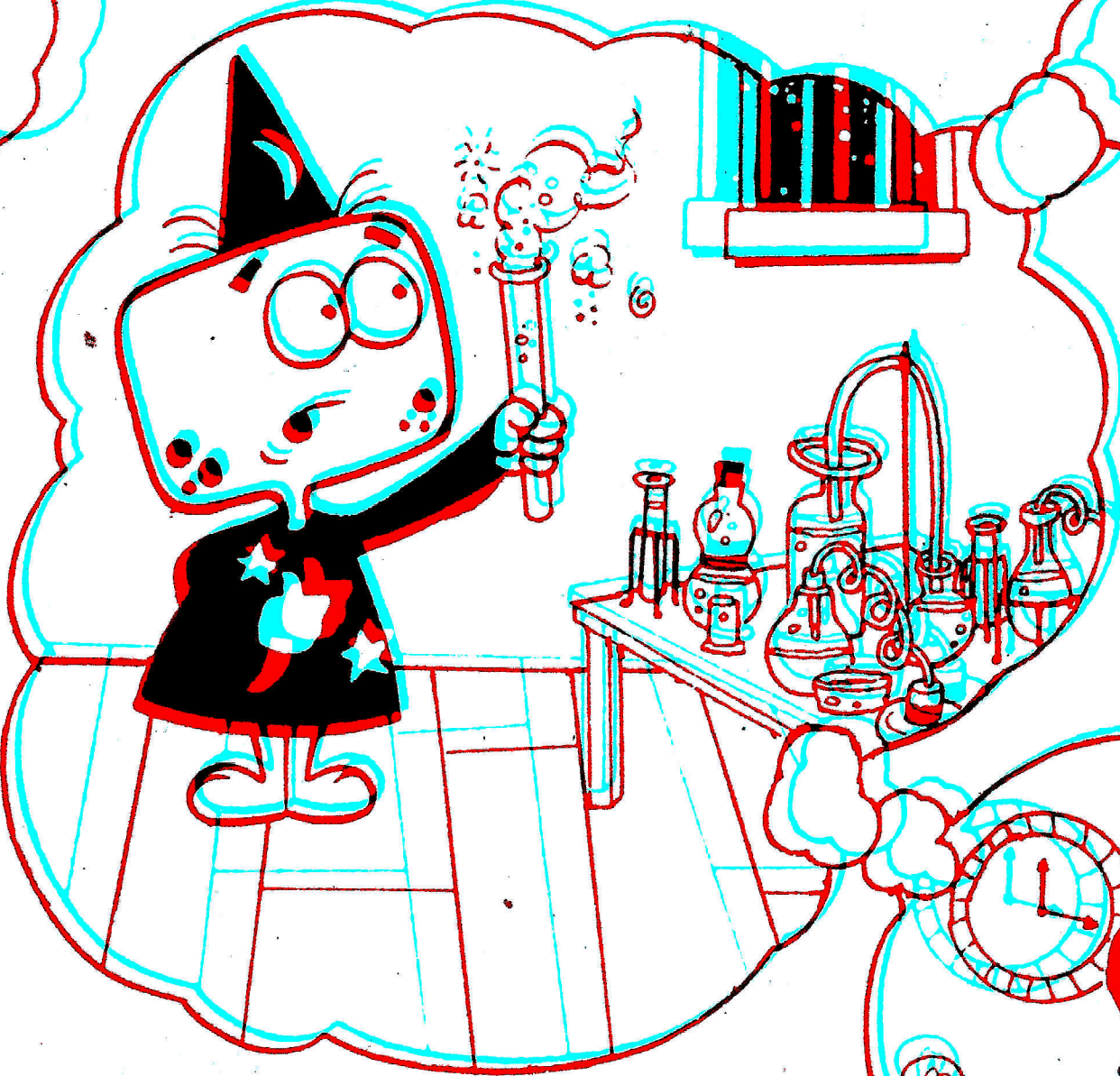


IT ALL STARTED WITH KING NOSMO ONLY SON OF KING
UGRED THE UGLY AND QUEEN ETHELRED THE UNREADY....

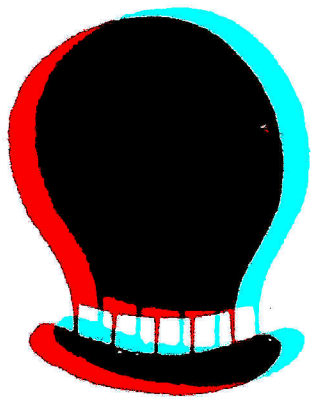


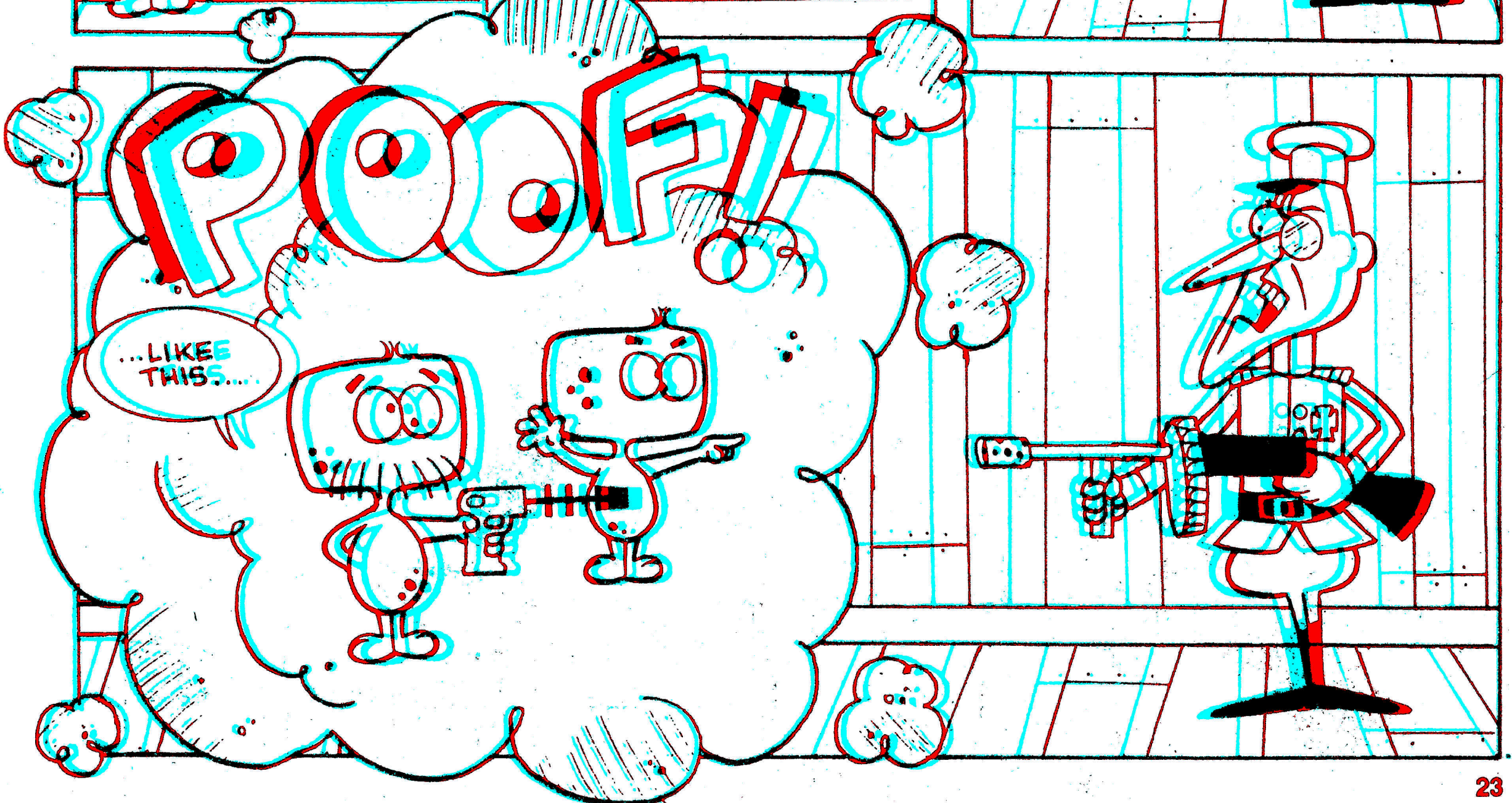
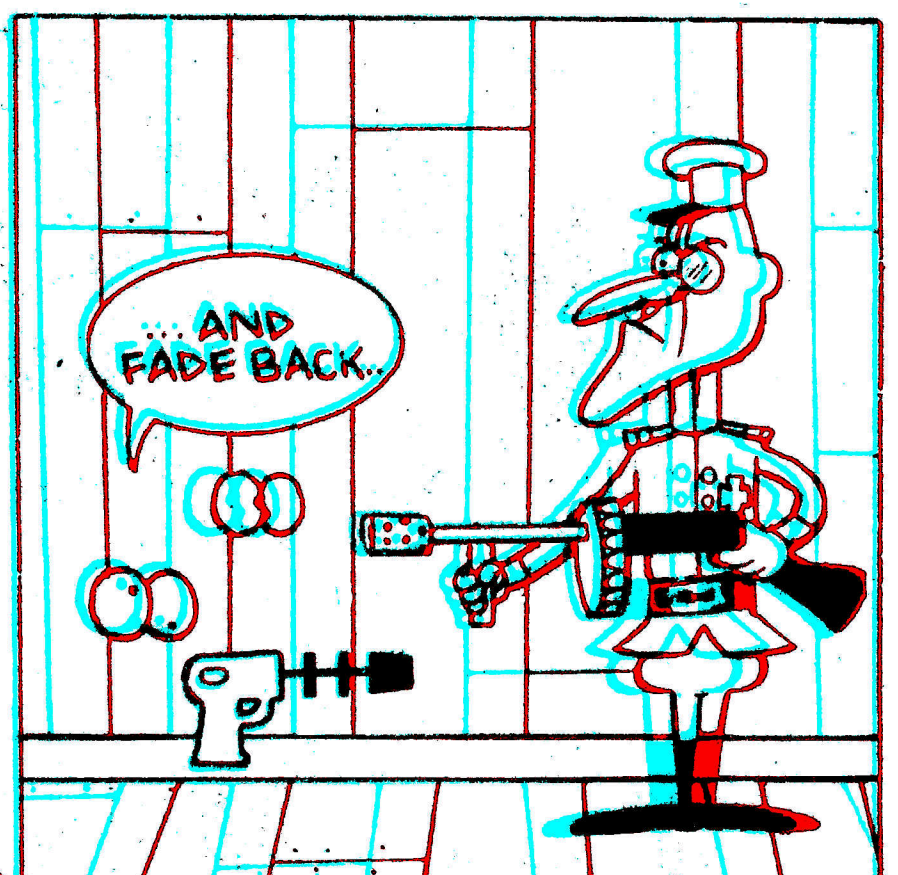
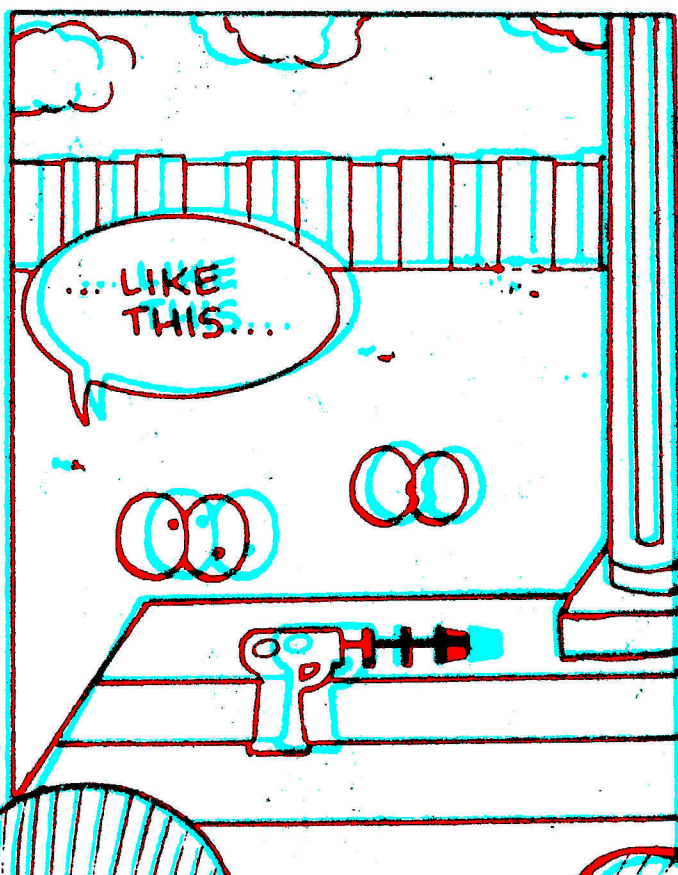
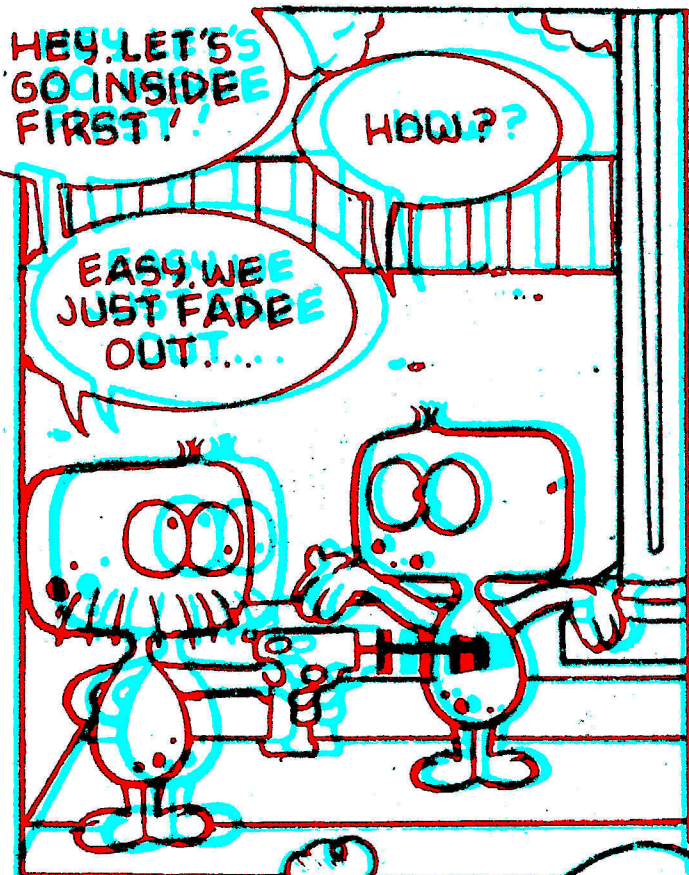
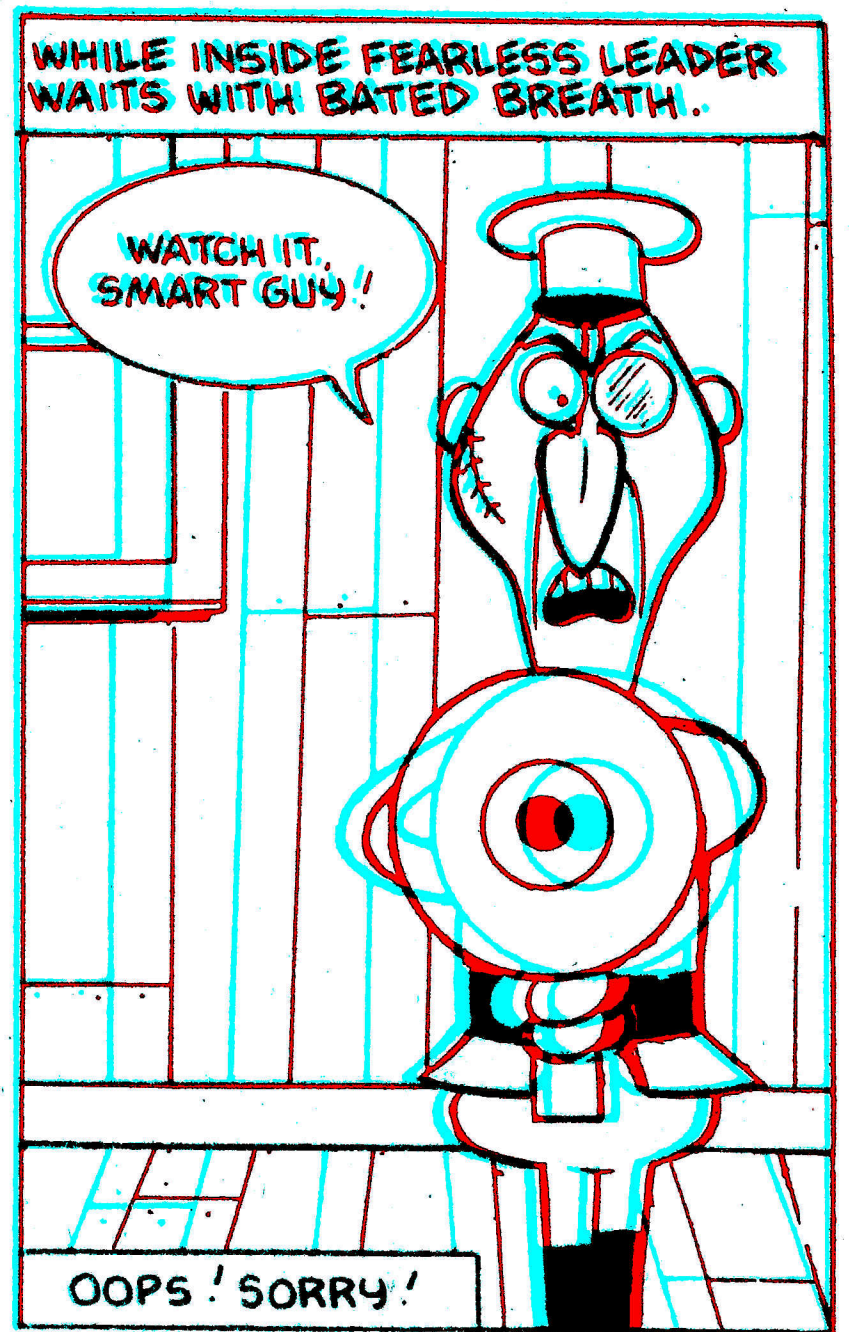
... NOSMO WAS A
GOOD SON, BUT A BIT
SLOW...

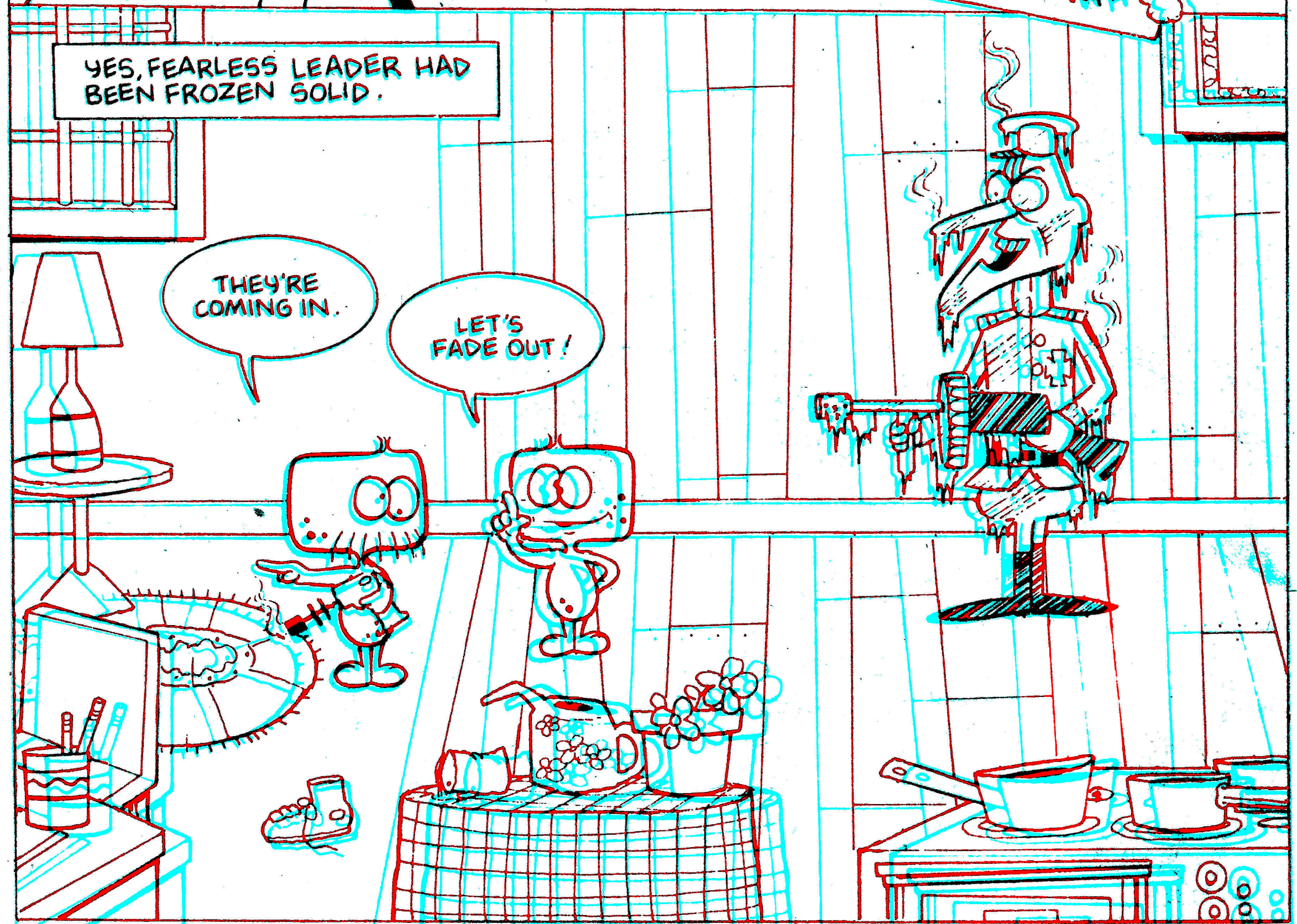
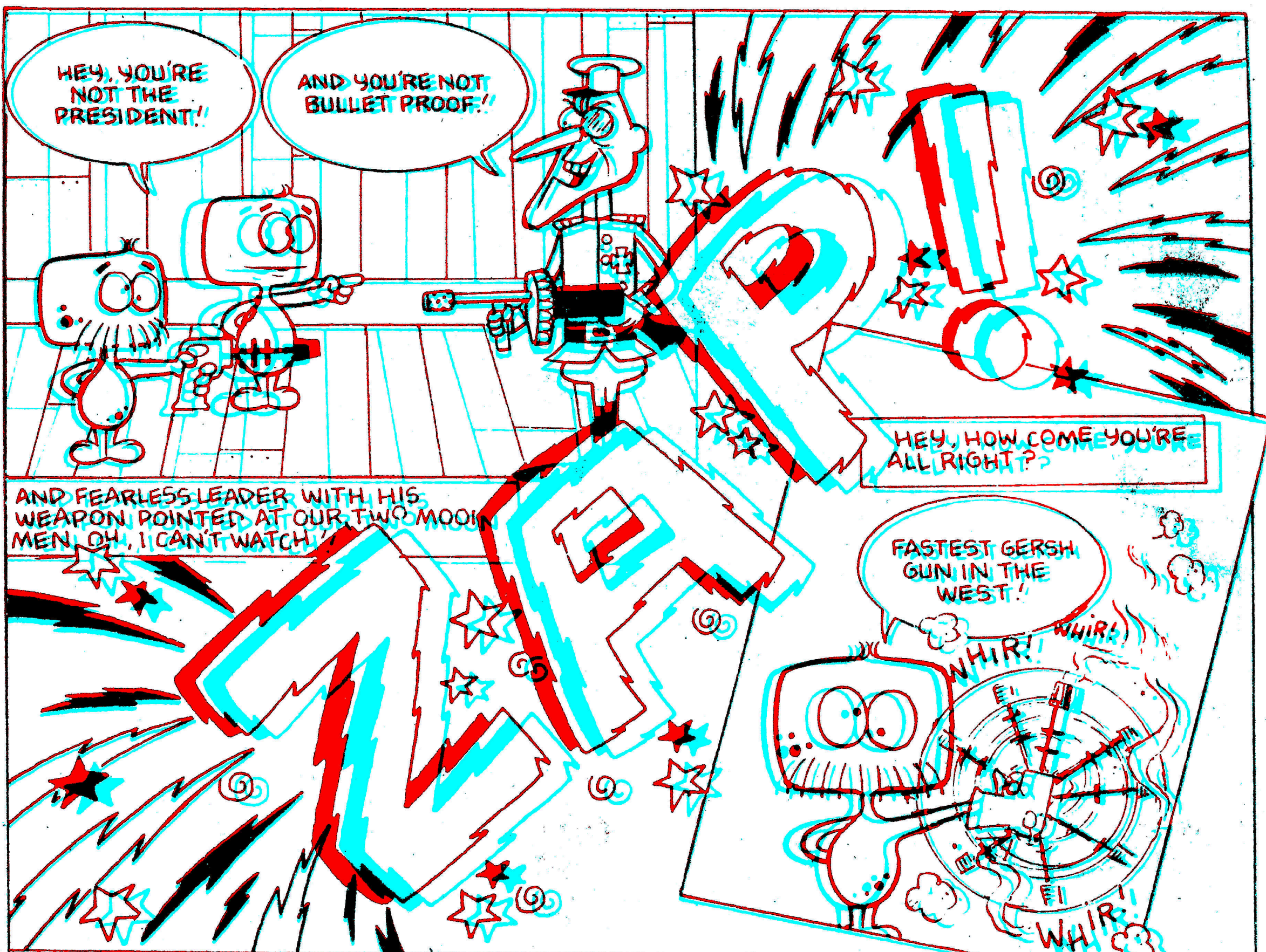
... FEARING FOR THE FUTURE, THEY
SUMMONED THE WIZARD AND BADE
HIM HELP MAKE NOSMO SMART! HE
LABORED DAY AND NIGHT...

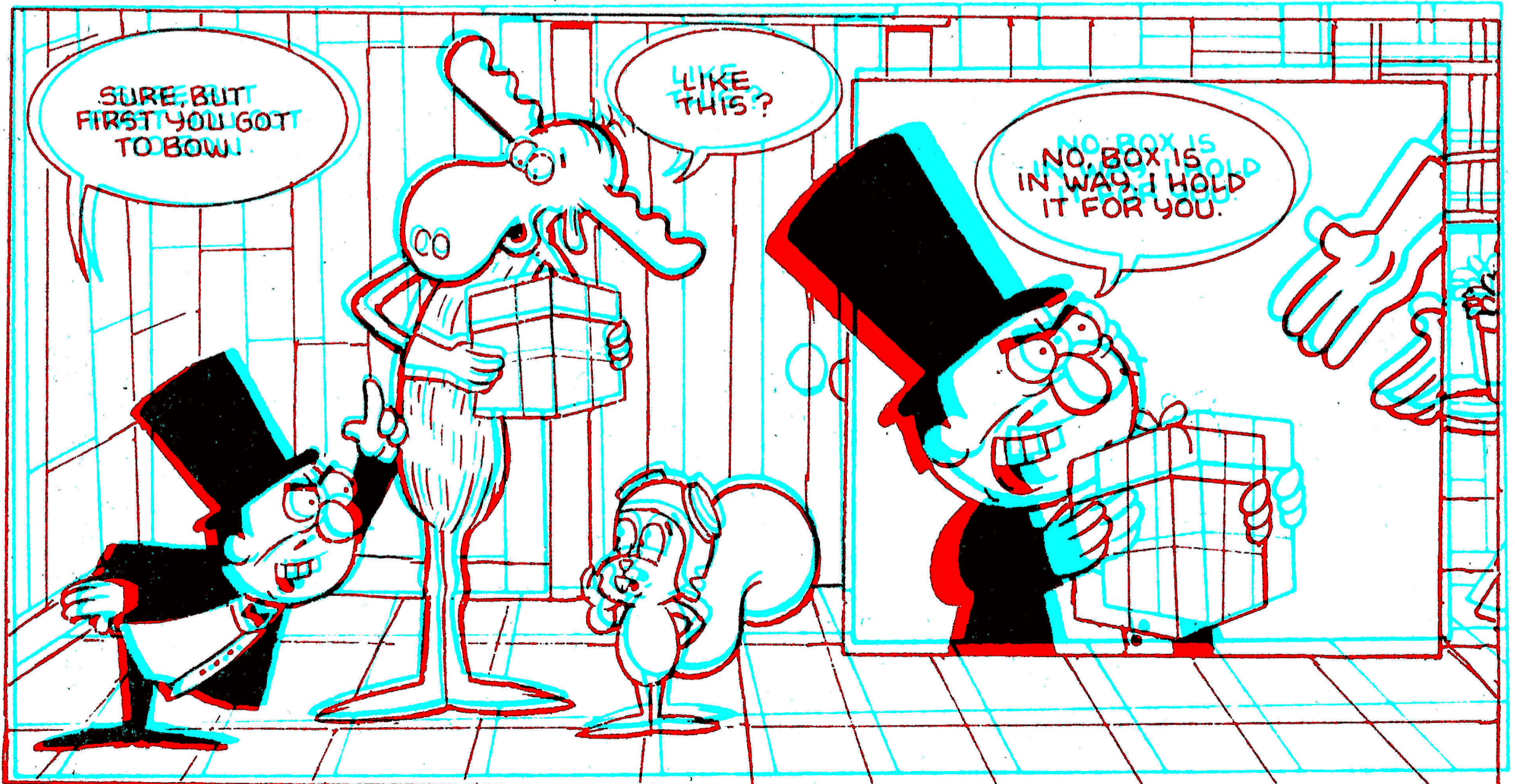
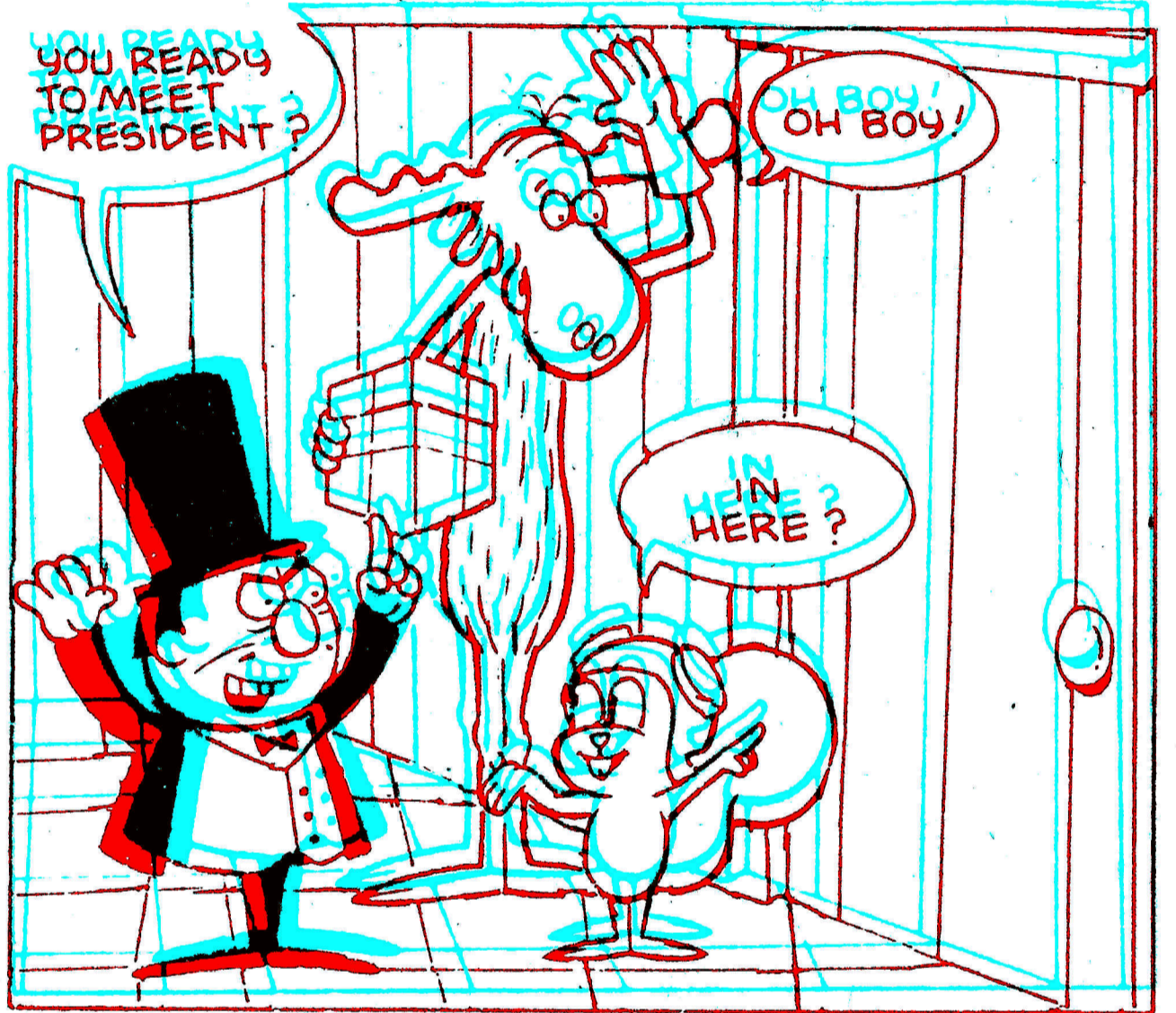
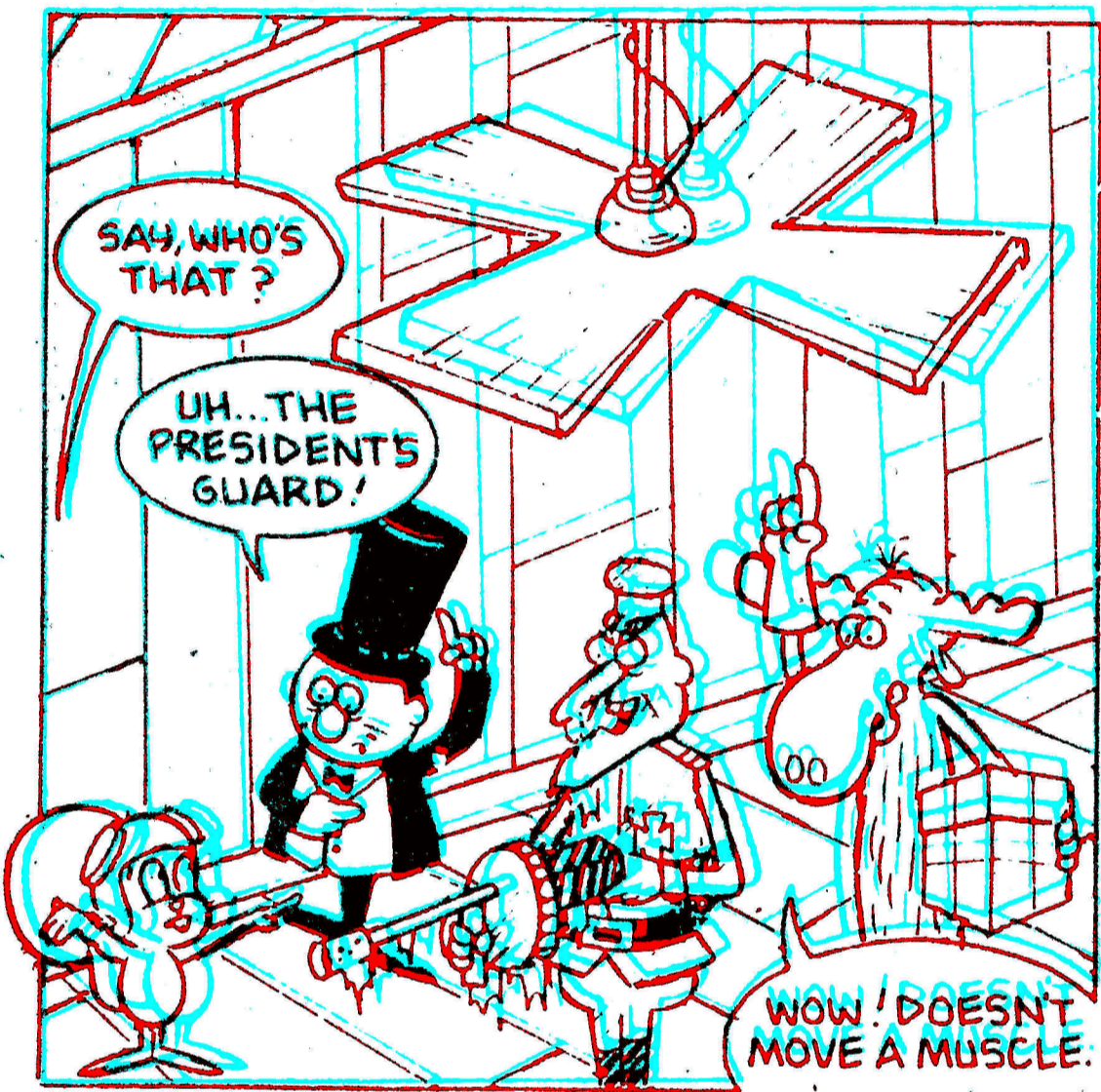
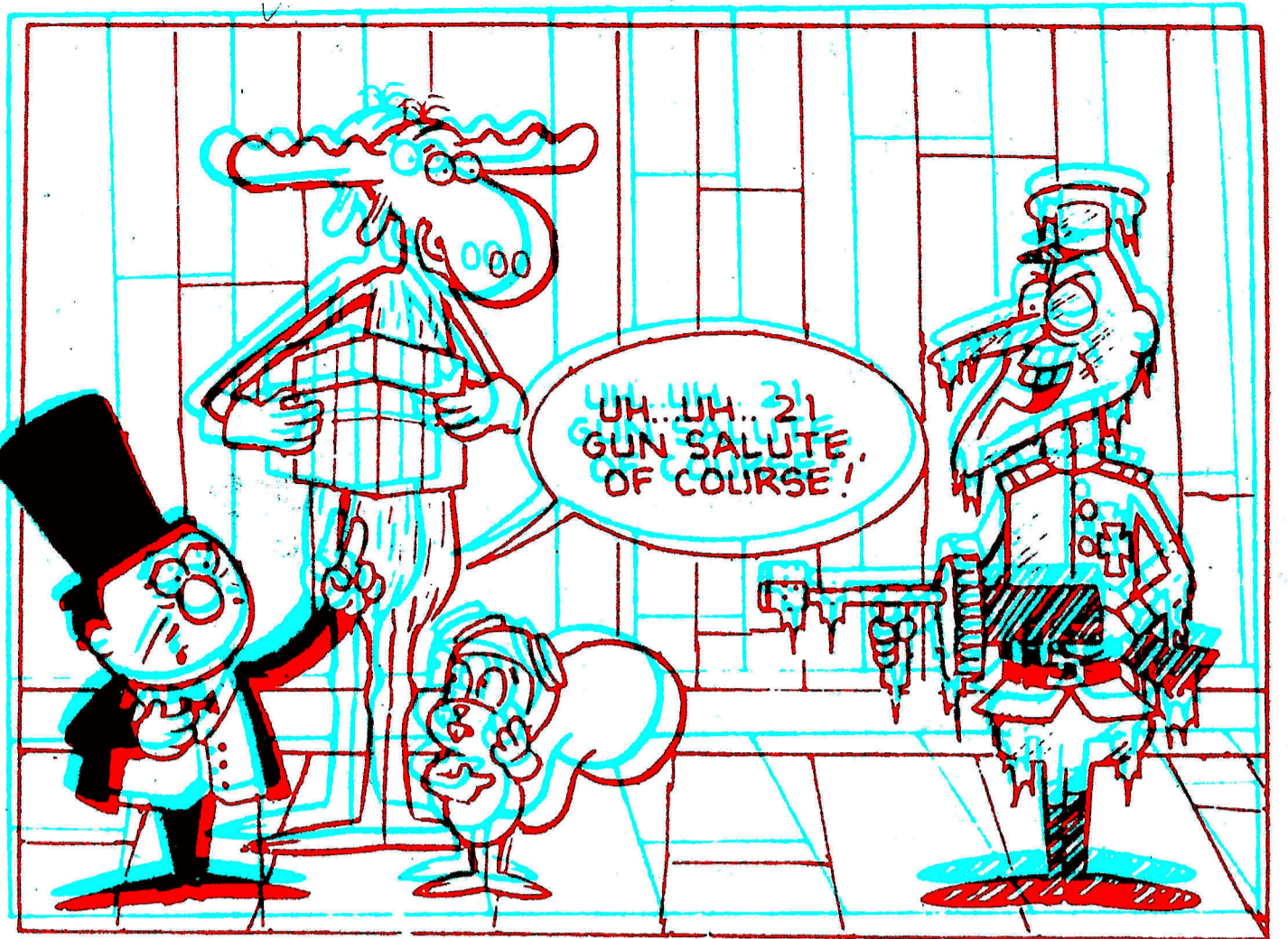
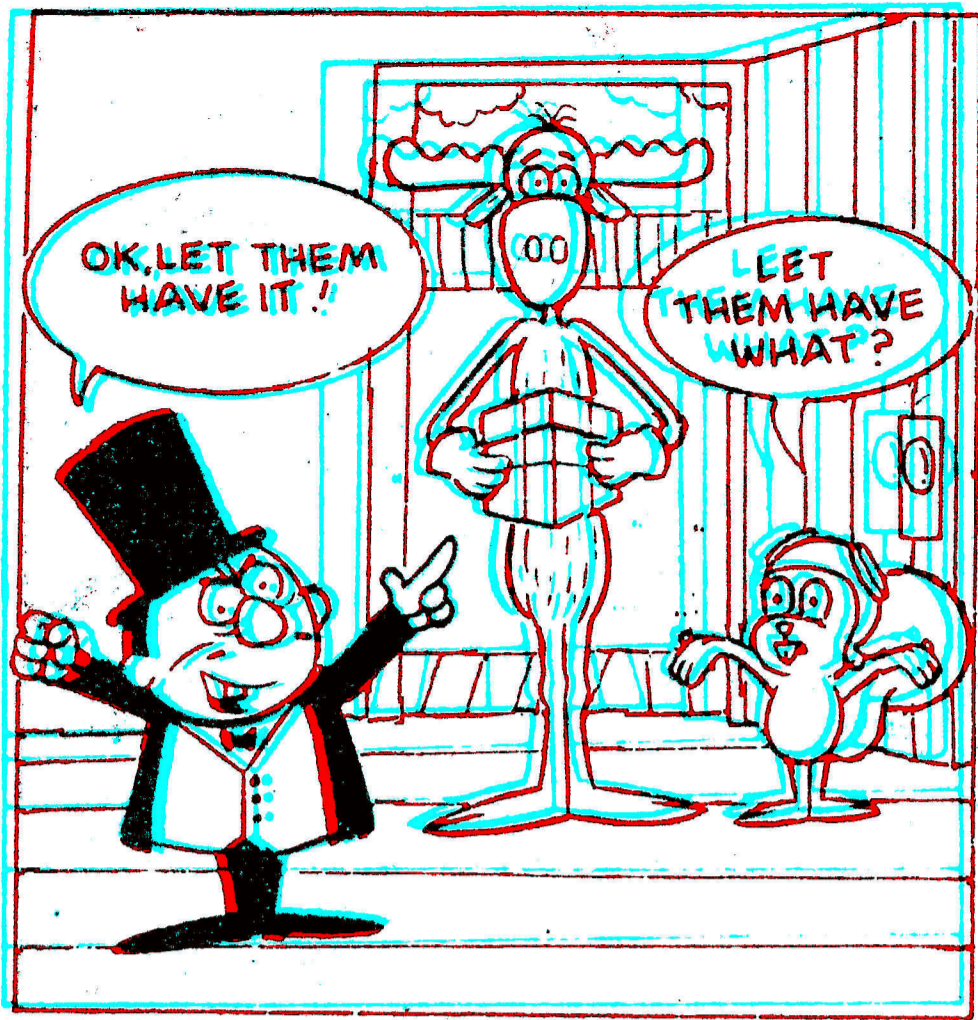


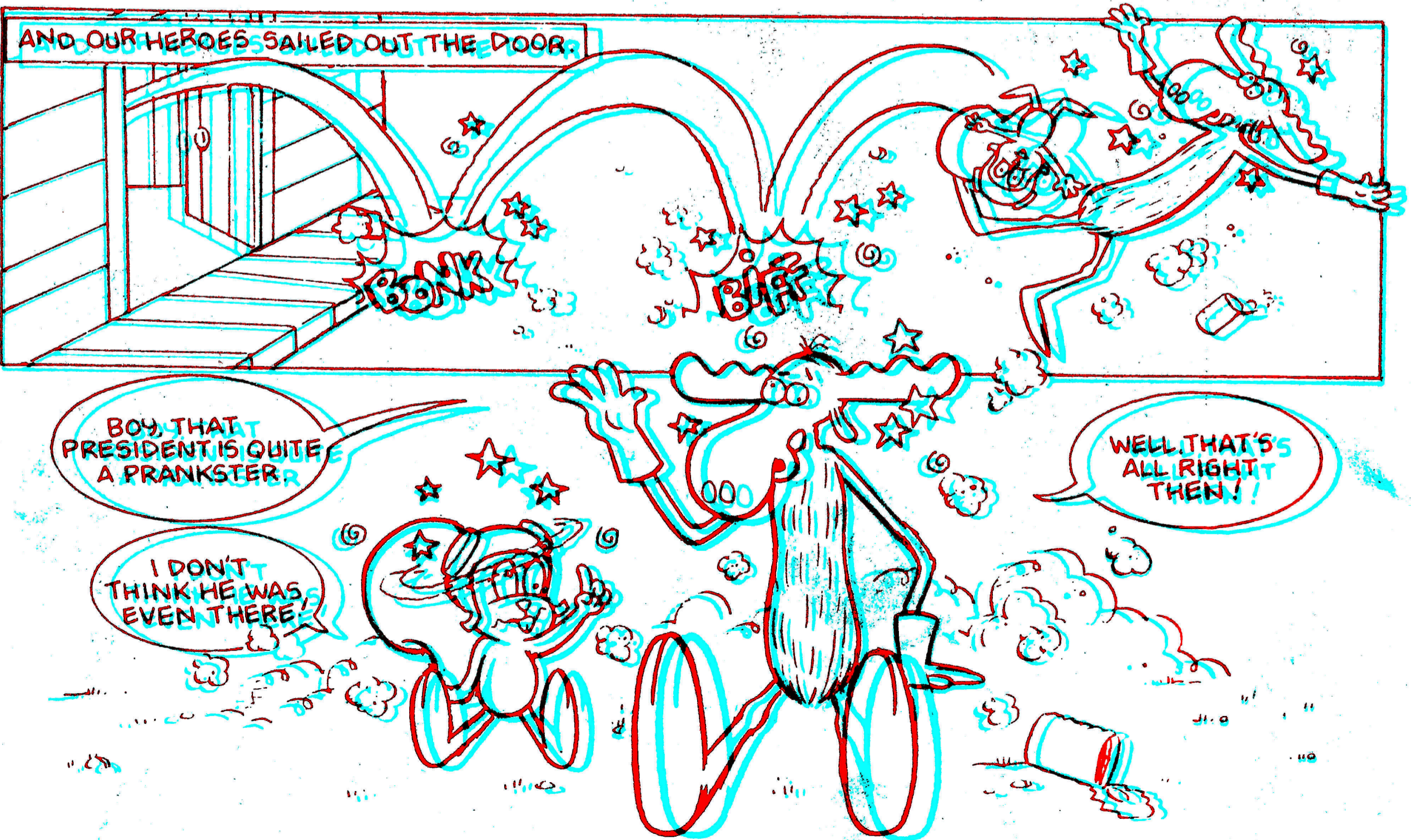
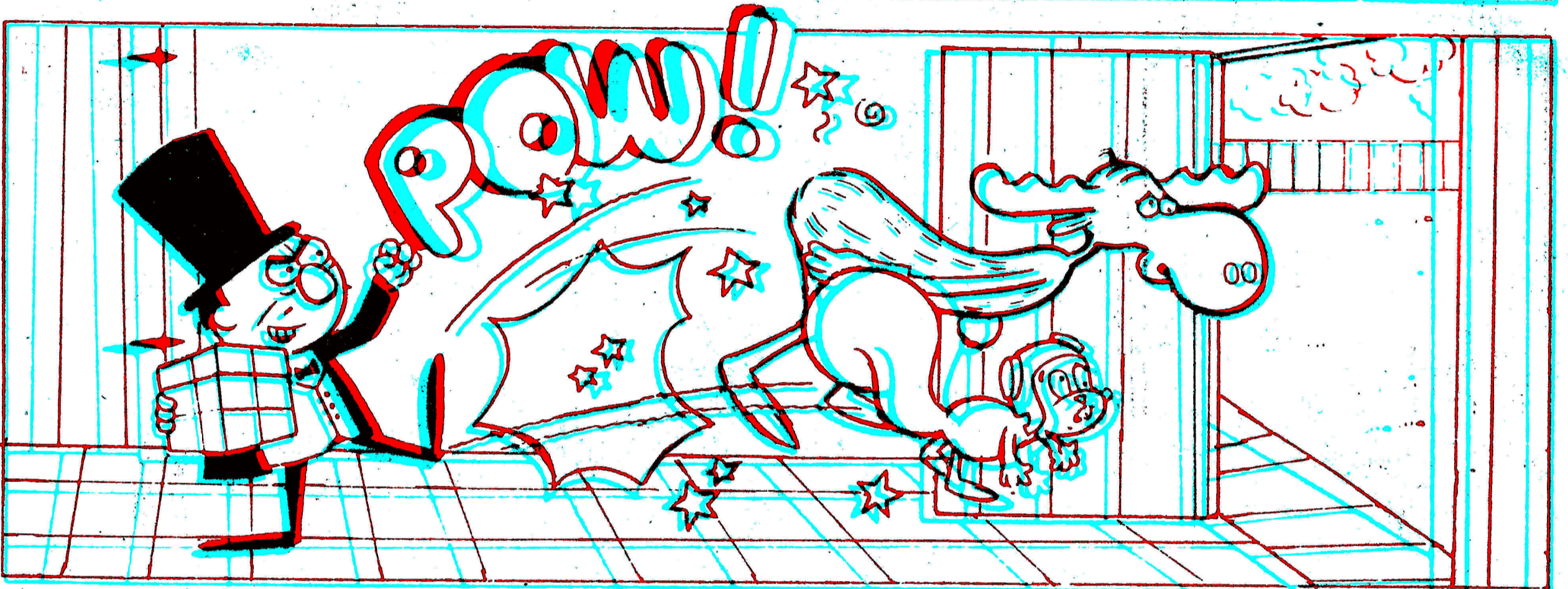
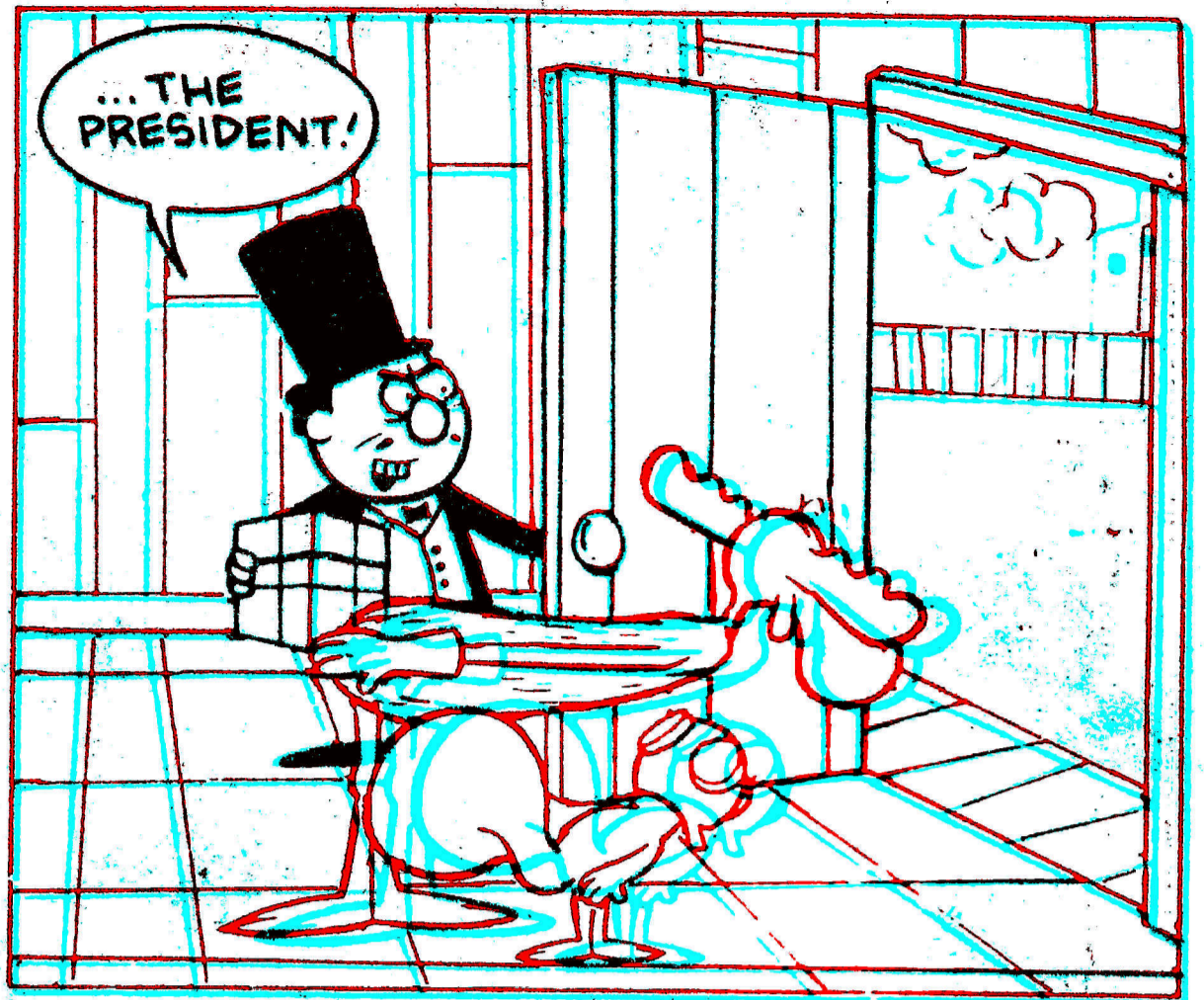
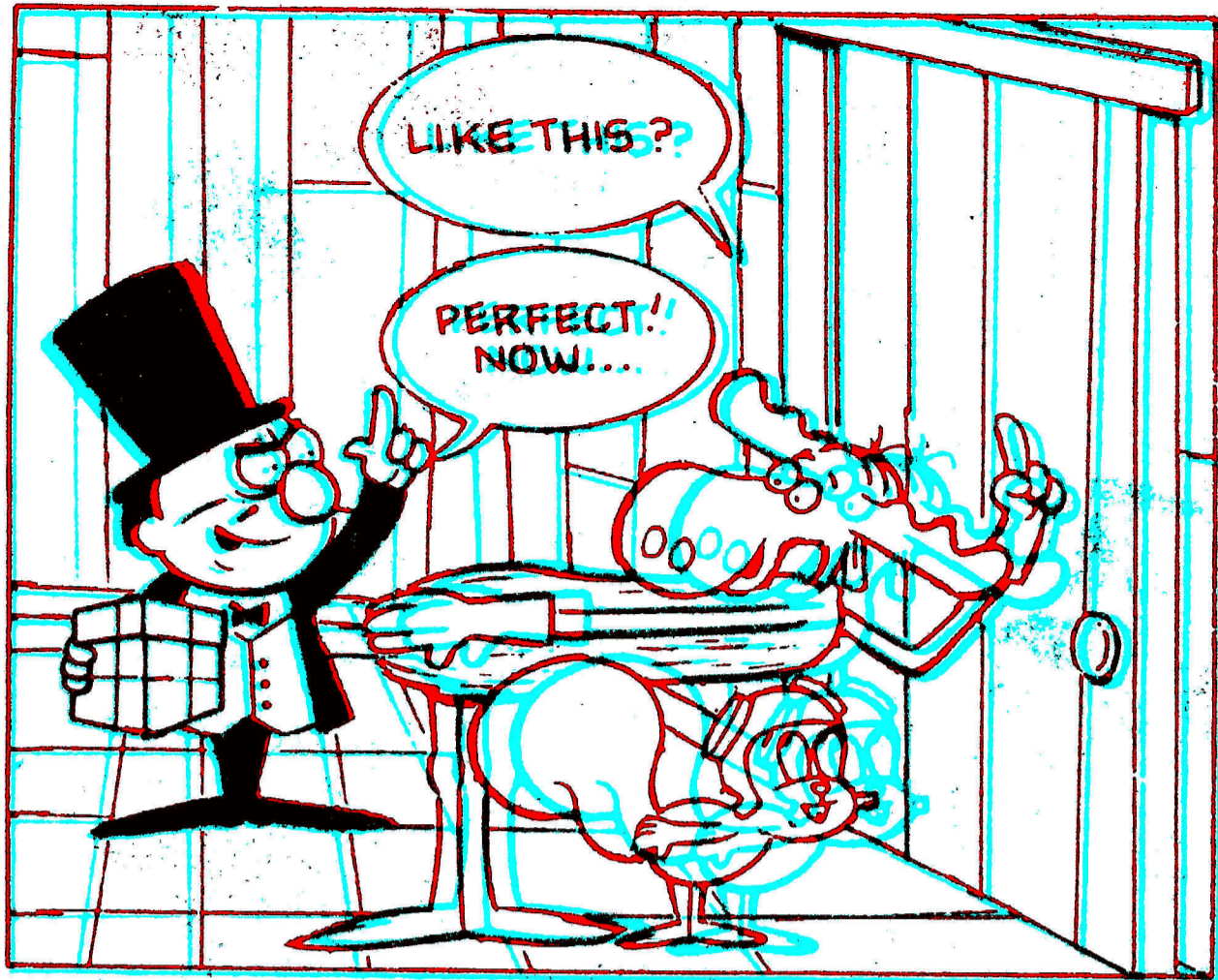
... AND FINALLY CREATED
THE KIRWARD DERBY!!

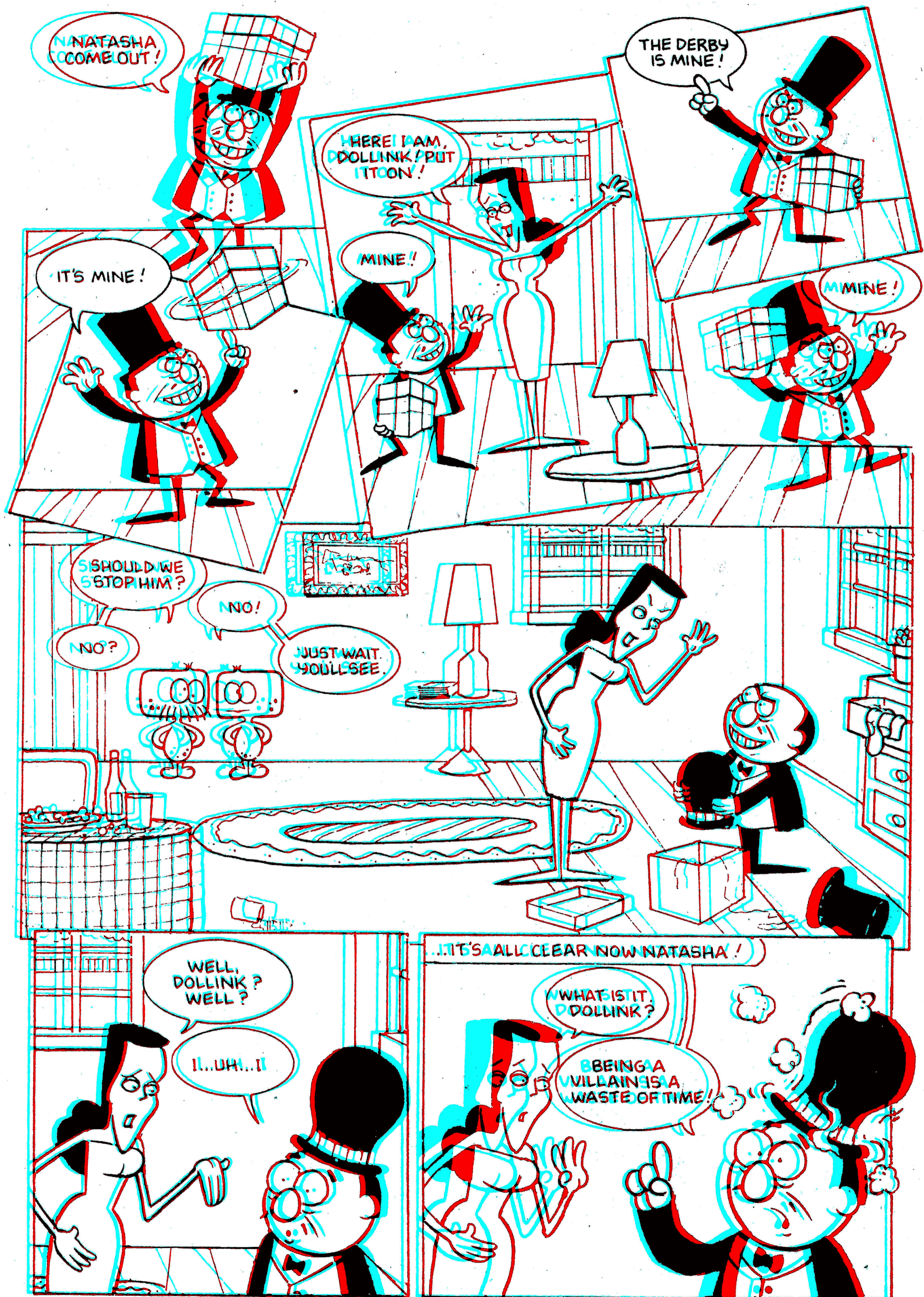










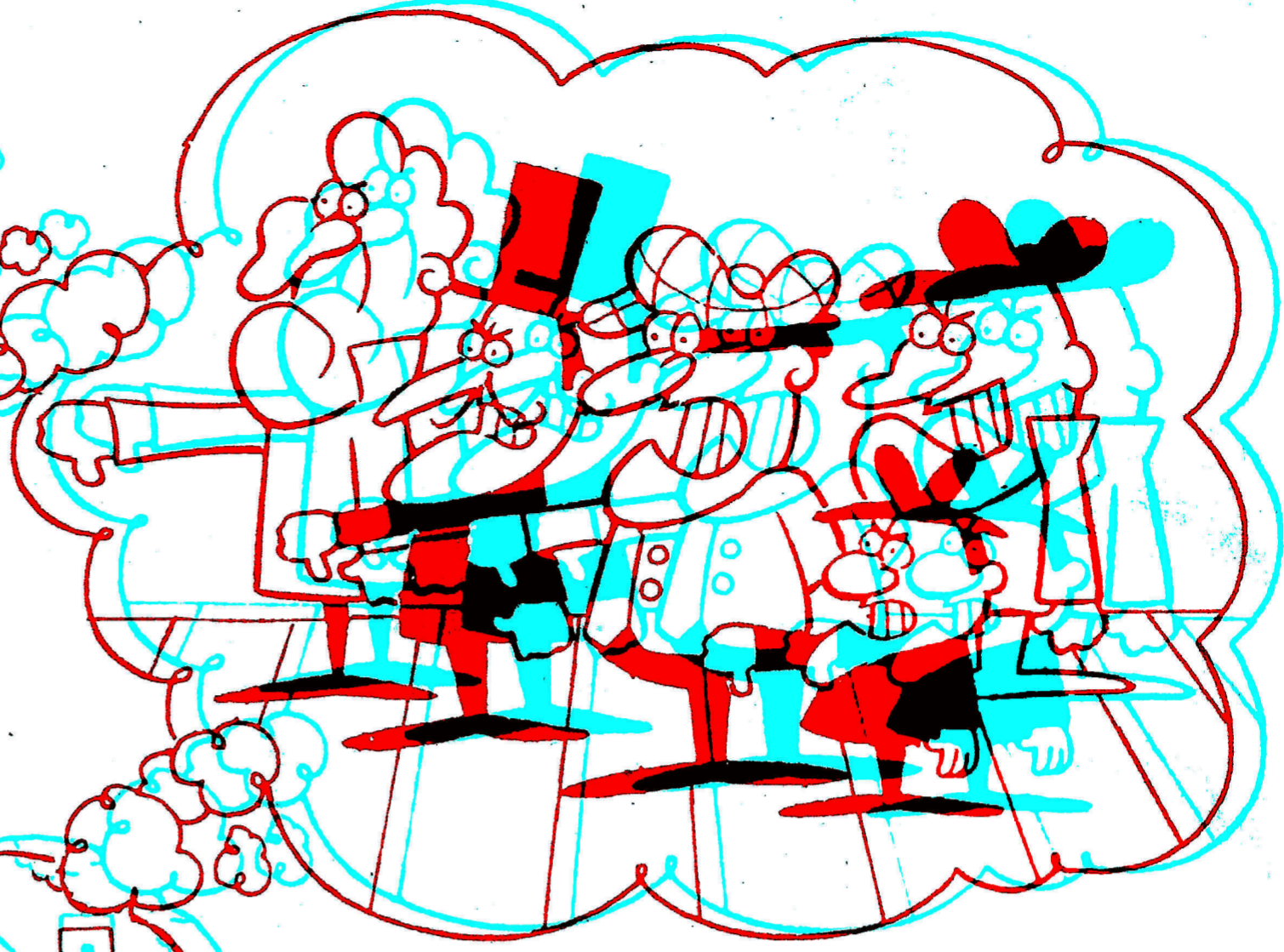


... NOBODY LIKES ME! EVEN OTHER VILLAINS HATE ME! ...



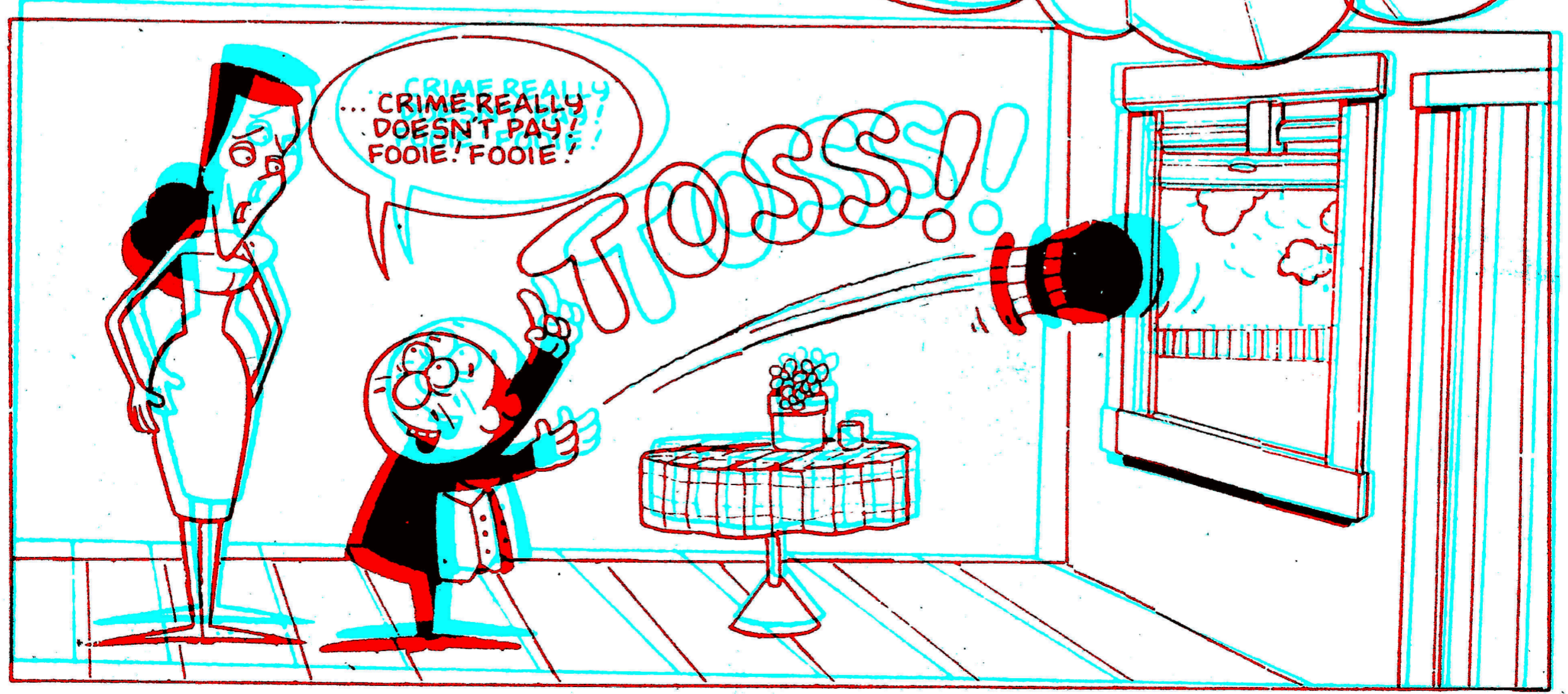
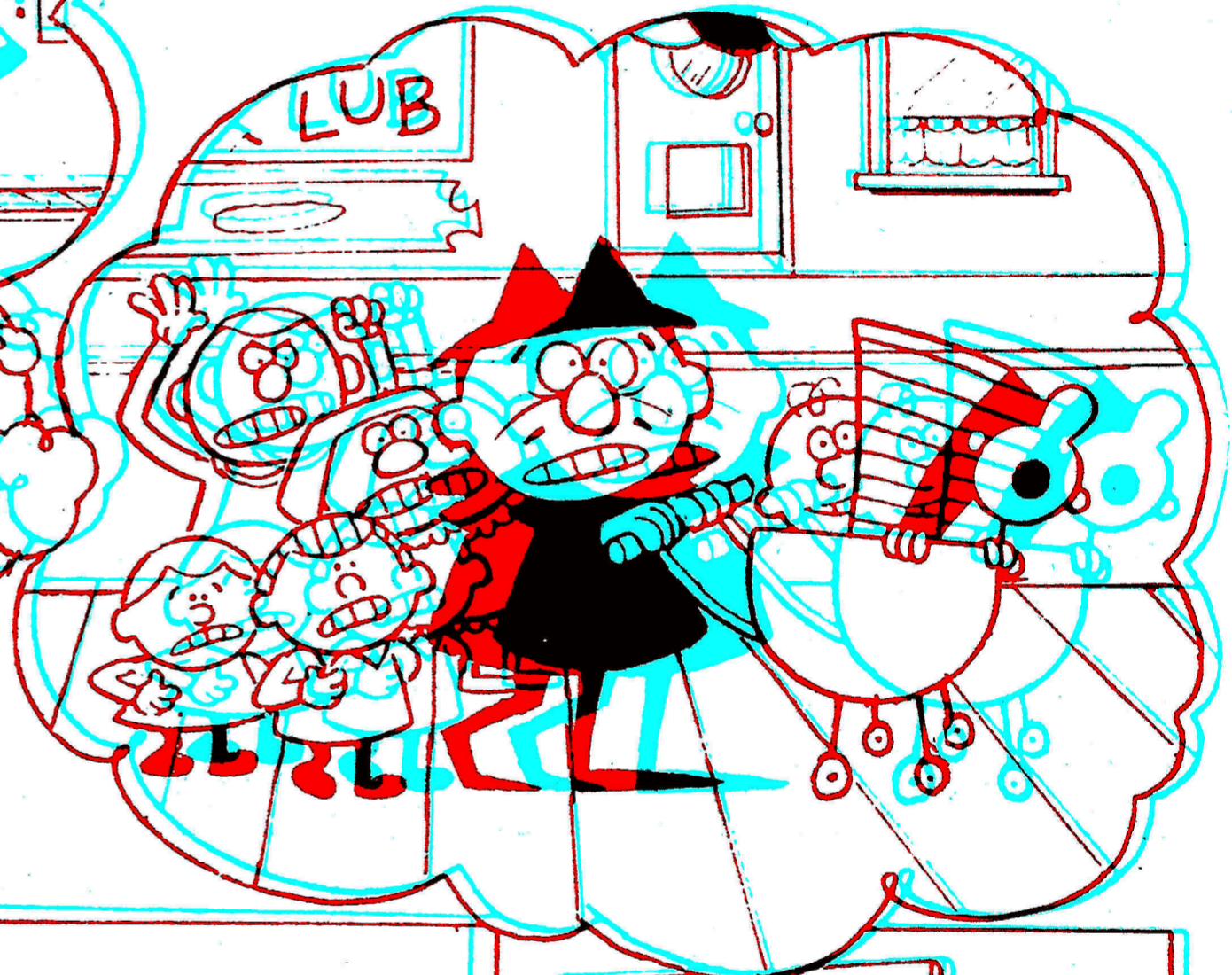
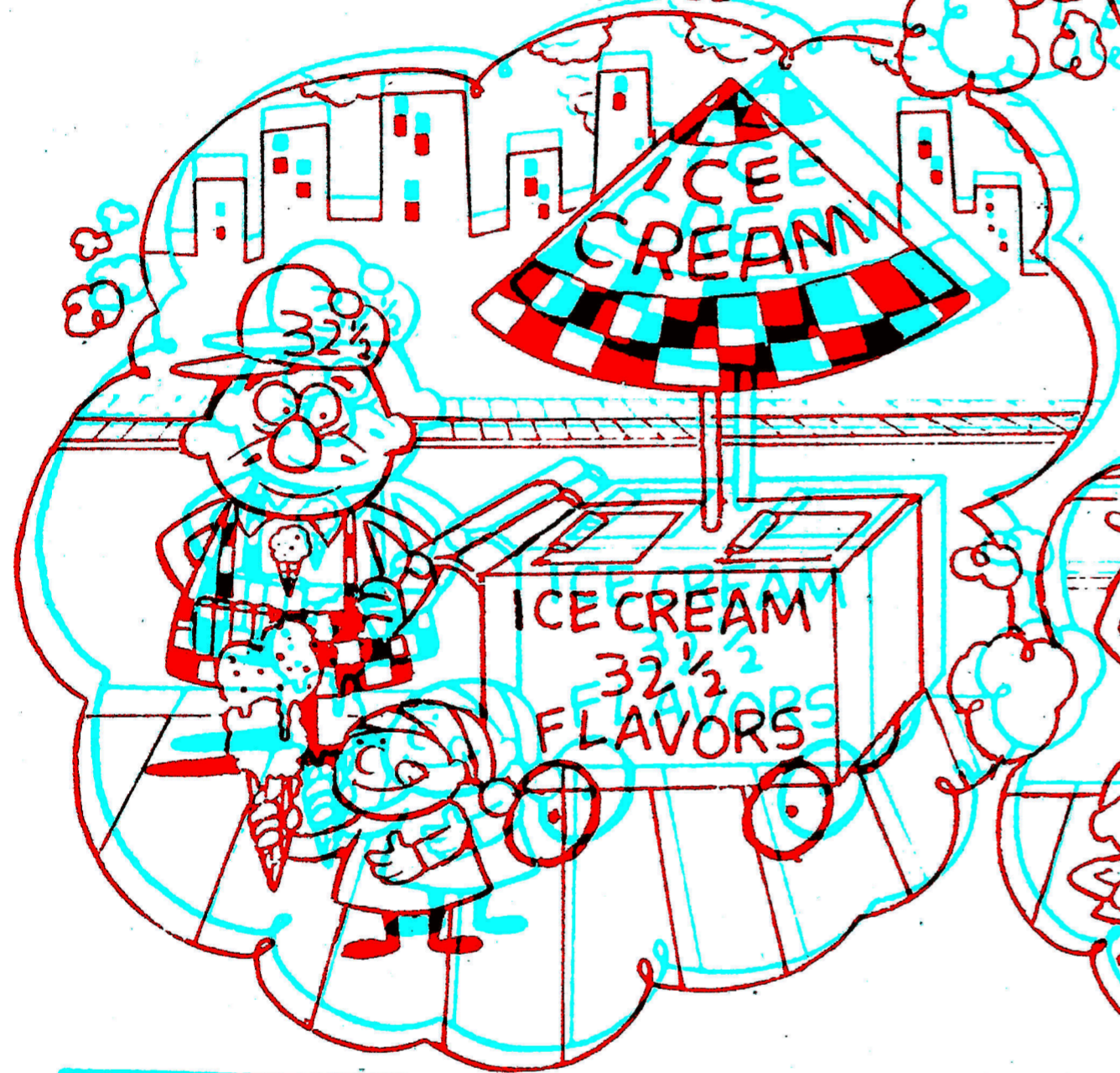
WHAT!?
WHAT!?

YES,
NATASHA...



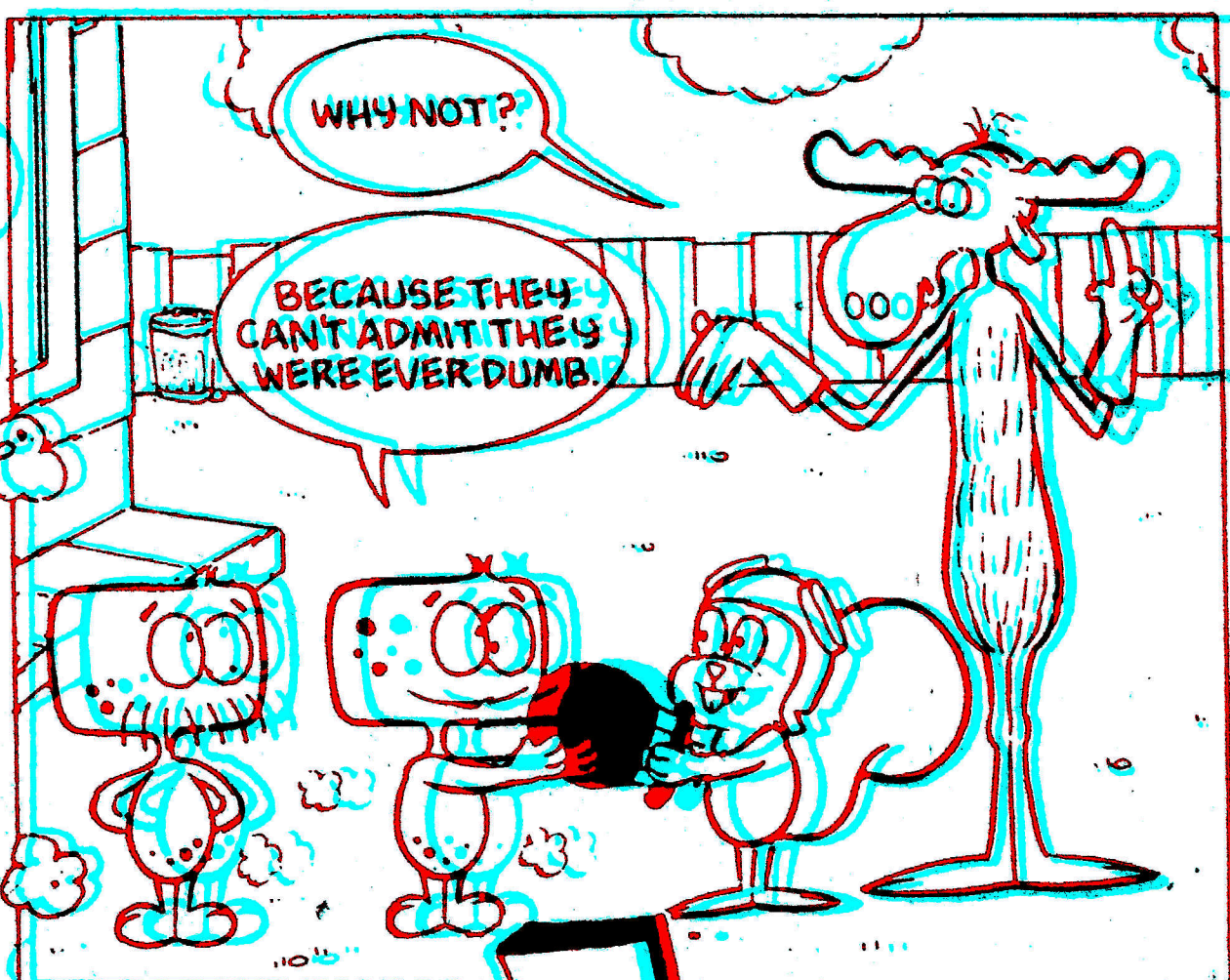
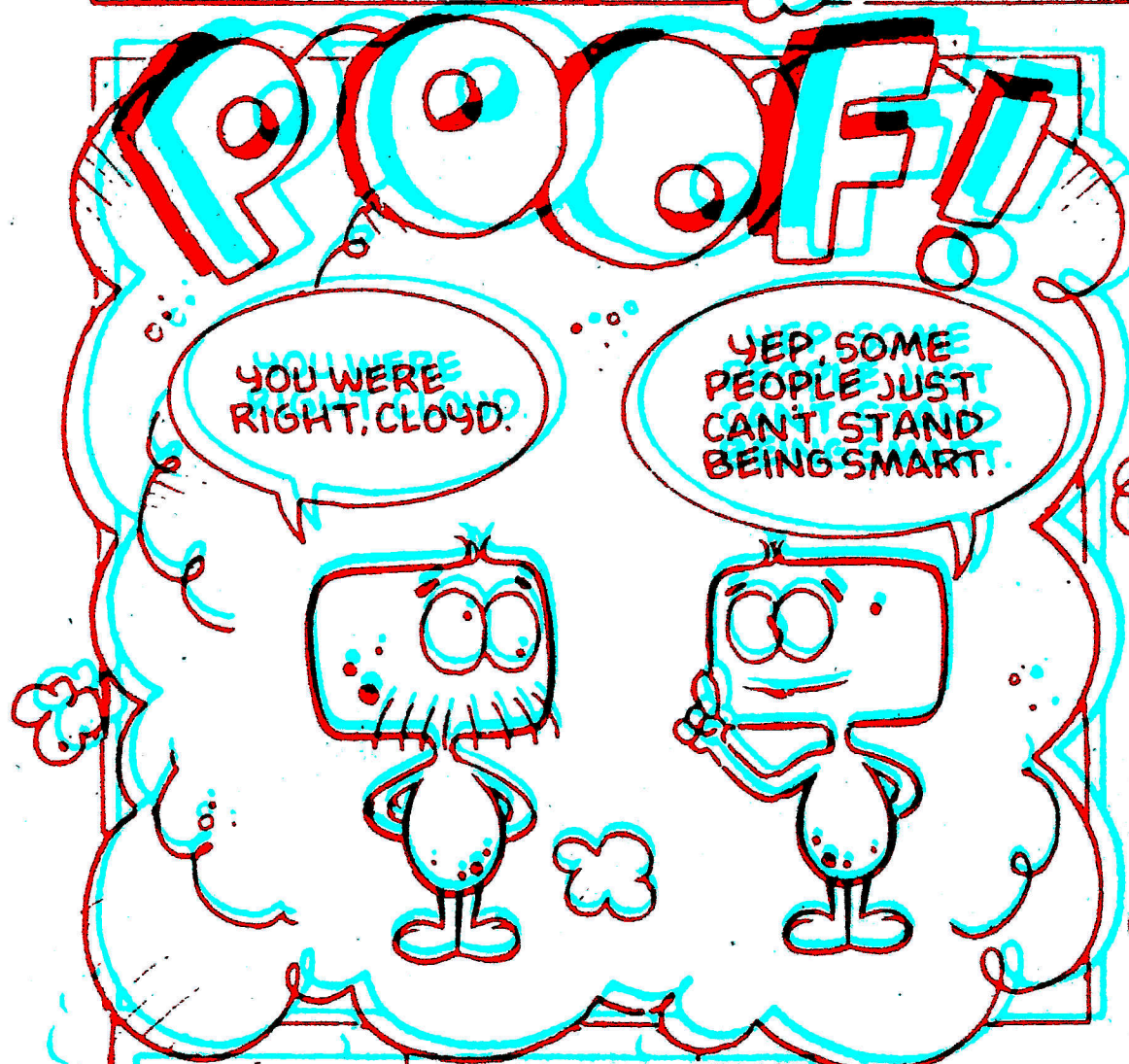
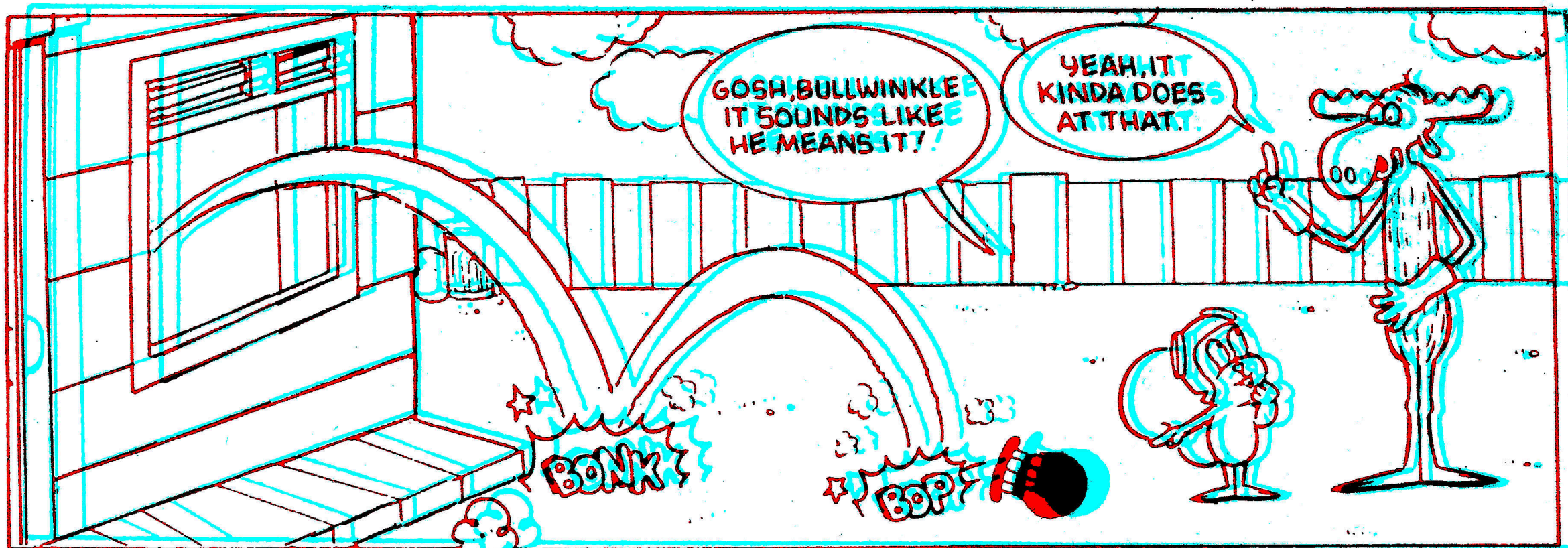
... WISE THING TO DO
IS GET REAL JOB ...

... RAISE A FAMILY, WIN RESPECT OF
NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS, BECAUSE NATASHA ...

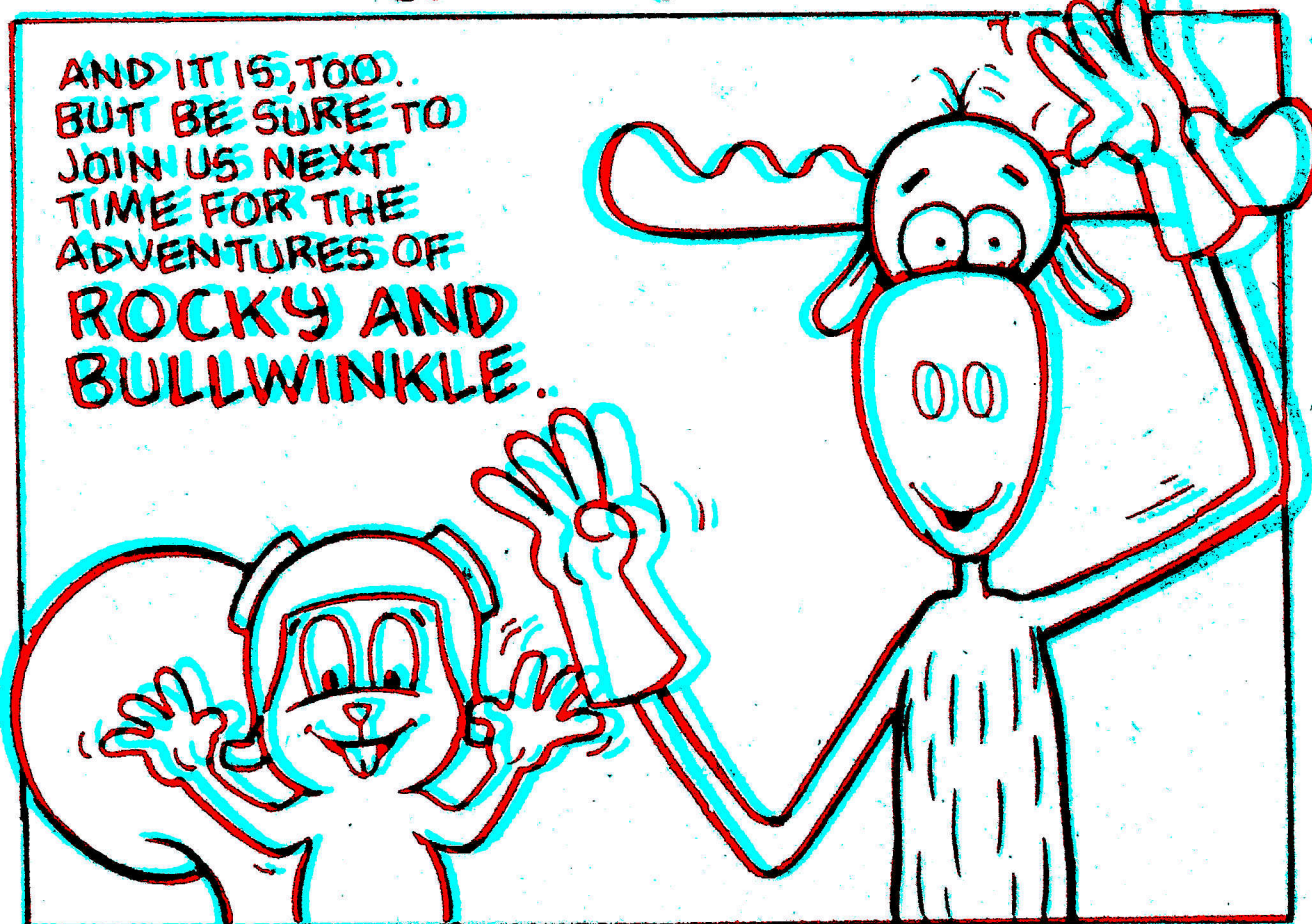
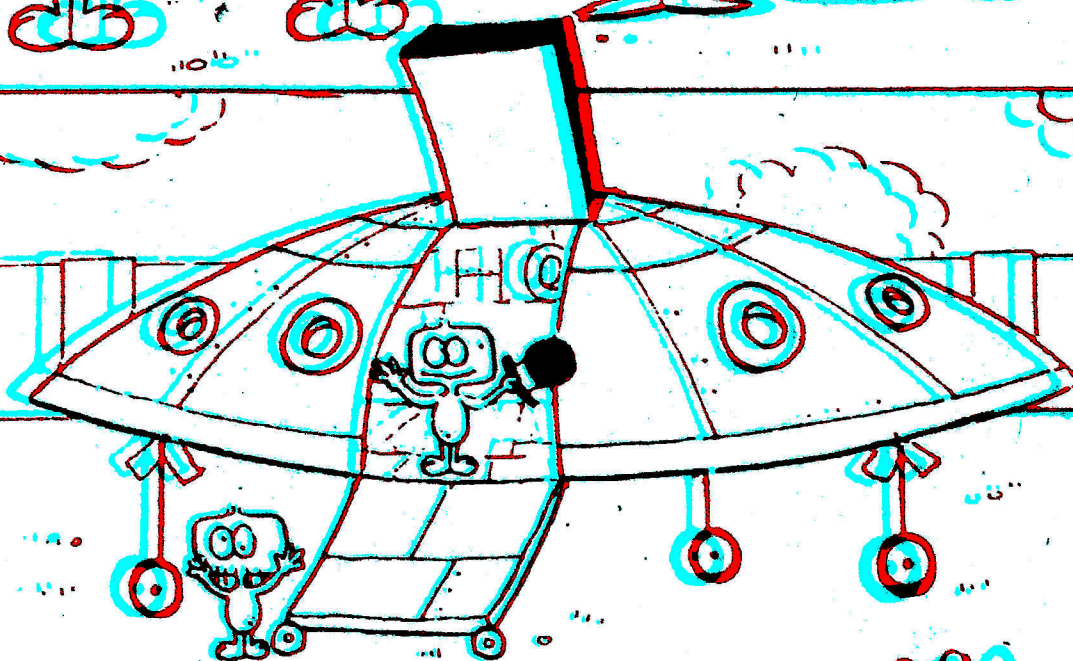


... CRIME REALLY
DOESN'T PAY!
FOOIE! FOOIE!

POSS!!



AND SO, OUR MOON MEN TOOK THE DERBY AND RETURNED HOME.

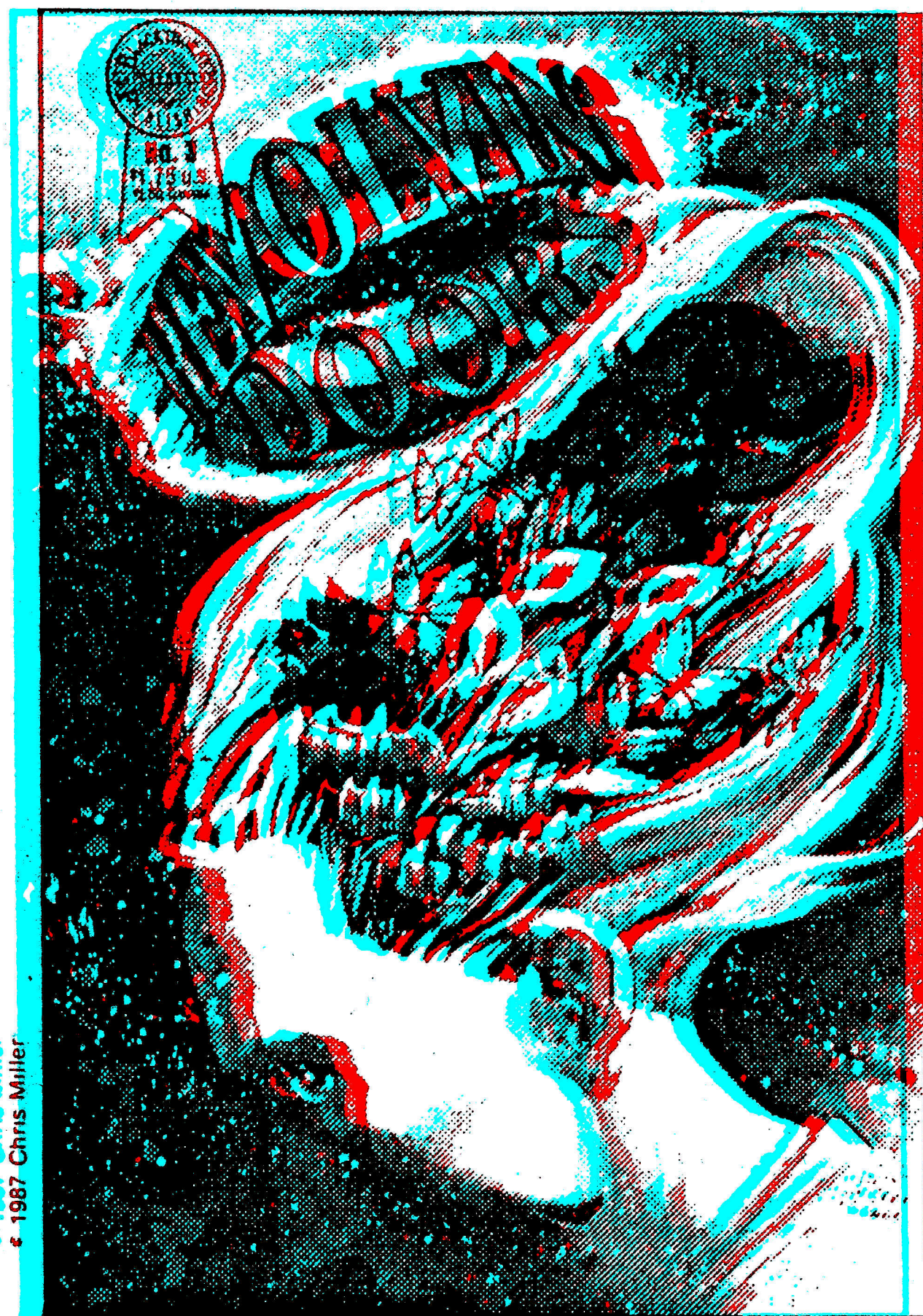




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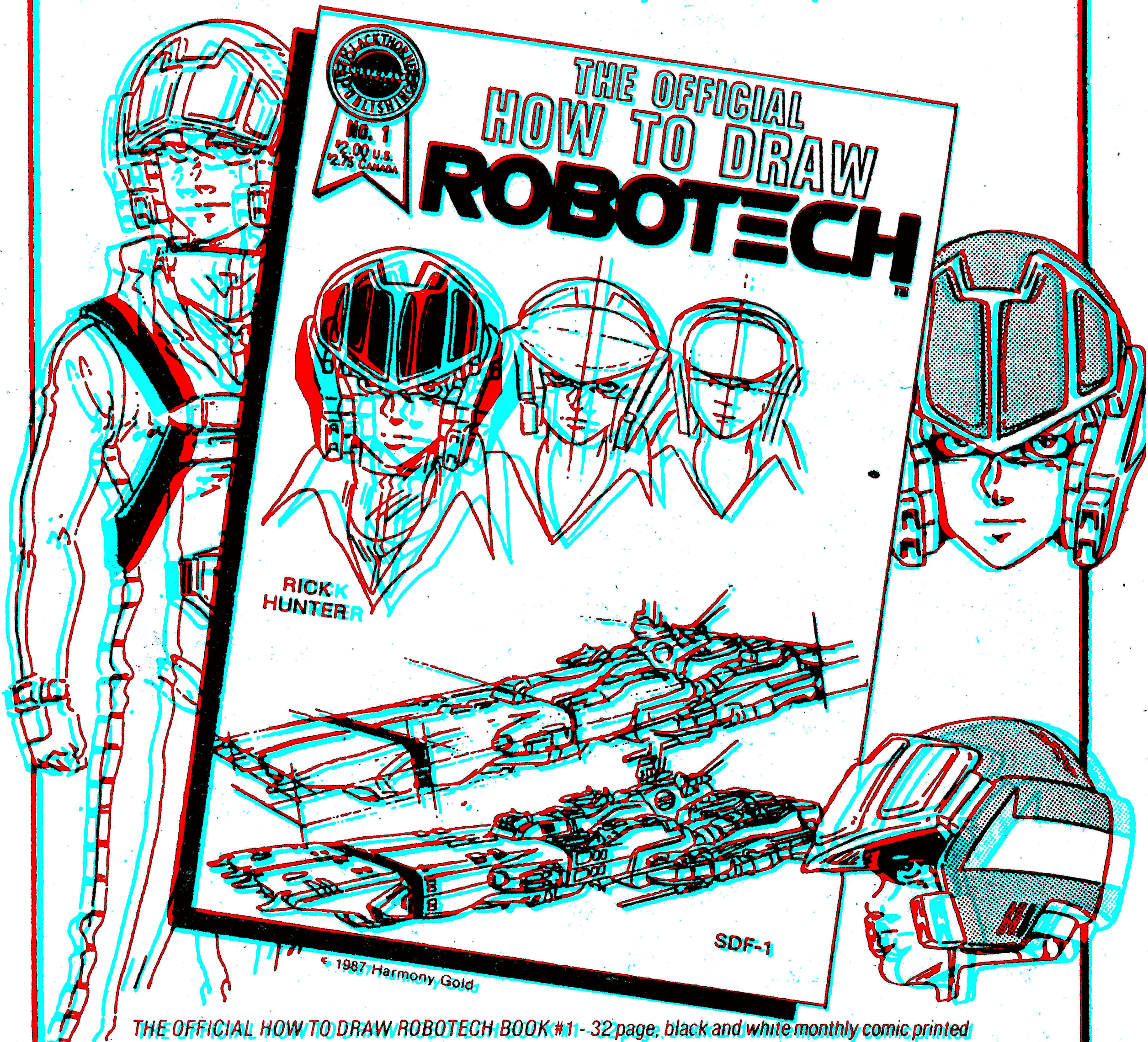
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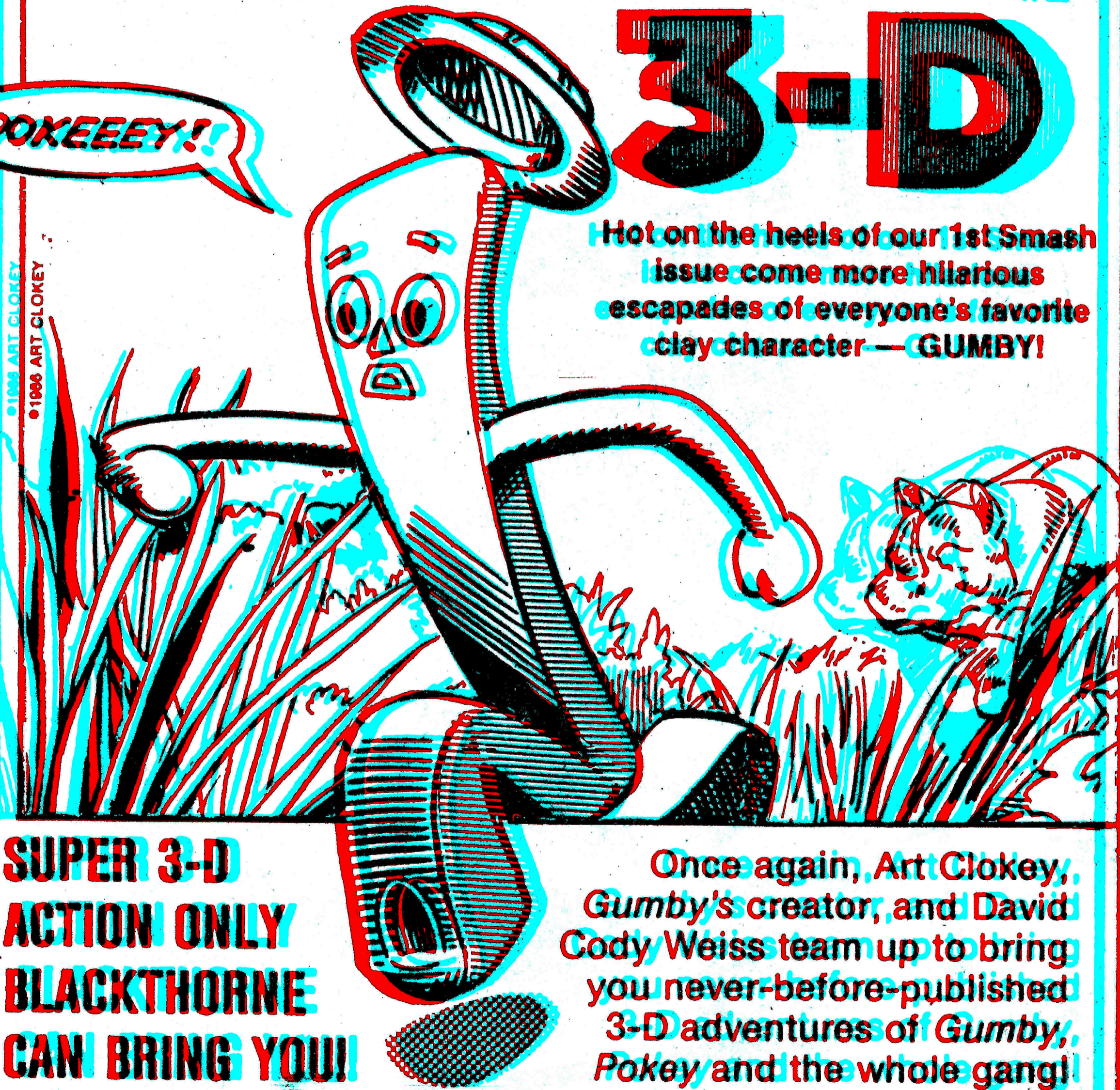
#2

3-D



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money, although the recompense exceeds the average 9-5 job. Every session is a new script, a different cast with concomitant jokes. The hours are easy and short with coffee ranging from terrific to bearable, but it's hot and lovable to the pipes. I must admit that working for Jay Ward with the Bullwinkle cast was the most gratifying and pleasurable experience of not only my professional career, but of my life. We recorded five segments in one session, the sessions usually taking place about 5:00 in the afternoons. It seemed that recording was incidental. It was like a party, the stimulant being not booze, but jocularity, chiding and love. The sessions usually lasted about 1½ hours.

The Bullwinkle segments consisted of Bill Scott, Paul Frees and myself with Bill Conrad narrating and Jay, of course, in the booth. Bill was Bullwinkle, Gidney and Edgar plus all other extraneous mad characters: Paul was Boris Badenov, Chauncey and Cloyd, plus others. I played Rocky and Natasha, plus other supernumerary women.

In *Fractured Fairytales*, Daws Butler always played the simple-minded prince or lead, doubling as other characters; Bill Scott, the heavies, kings, fathers and sometimes witches, when my vocal cords were too busy doing princesses, other witches, fairy godmothers, etc. Edward Everett Horton lent his delicious, sardonic narration to all of the fairy tales, topped off with his derisive chuckle.

Dudley Doright's actors were Scott as the bumbling, idiotic Canadian Mounty; Paul Frees, Inspector Fenwick; Hans Conried, the smarmy Snidely Whiplash and I, as the ineffable Nell. Paul narrated.

Aesop and Son: Daws Butler, son; Charlie Ruggles, Aesop. Bill Scott, all other characters. When there was a female, June. *Peabody and Sherman*: Bill Scott played the intellectual Mr. Peabody with Walter Tetley as the ingenuous Sherman. Paul Frees assumed the other characters in history.

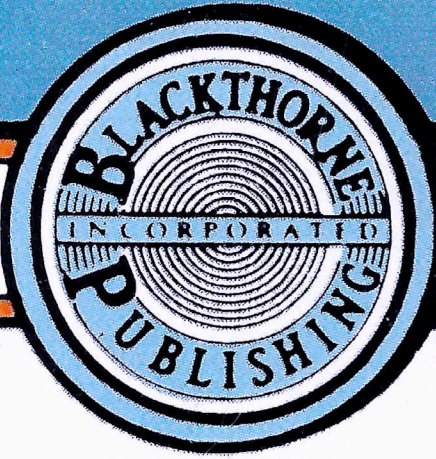
SHEL: How has this long-lasting popularity of the show affected your life?

JUNE: Just maximize gratifying, rewarding, intoxicating a thousand times and you have it. The trade-off of anonymity for affection and respect assures my name and reputation in animation history, but more than that I feel that I have con-

tributed to the enjoyment of millions of people, not only in the United States, but in several foreign countries. The modicum of celebrity status that I had already achieved through my work at Disney, Warners, Stan Freberg, Hanna-Barbera and multitudinous other studios, animation and live-action, never prepared me for the adulation I am receiving for my being a flying squirrel and his adversary spy; a naive girl friend of an inept Mountie. Since the resurgence of tenacious fans, I have been interviewed by newspaper and magazine reporters all over the world, television and radio m.c.'s. Airplane tickets have been afforded me to attend festivals and seminars. My name is prominent in books on animation, the amount of fan mail is extraordinary. Certainly, I had never expected fame, just wishing to work at my craft and keep body and soul together, but I stepped into the faerie ring with the Bullwinkle Show. I am still slaving in the animation vineyards with four series — *The Smurfs*, *Gummi Bears*, *Teen Wolf* and *Duck Tales* and innumerable commercials. How fortunate I am!

SHEL: What was it like being a friend of Bill Scott?

JUNE: Every friend of Bill's was the recipient of love, compassion and respect. His brilliant mind never initiated any condescension, but his having written two-thirds of the Bullwinkle segments made him aware of any incorrect readings on the part of his fellow actors. Seldom did he ever have to correct them, but when he did, he was gentle and good-humored. His time, wallet and energy became the perquisites of students, social and professional confreres, anyone who needed help. As you can tell by his satirical writing, he took waggish swipes at the real establishment, politicians, snobs, executives, advertising big-wigs, but knowing Bill, one could never be offended because of his inordinate kindness and generosity, always accompanied by an impish grin. Aware that actors have one helluva time getting that first break, Bill was there at the ready hiring them. He was a consummate writer, actor, singer, director, friend, family man, churchman and human being. One of a kind, Bill Scott was. Moose and Squirrel were buddies, and so were Bill and June. I miss him.



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Yabba Dabba Do!

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